

مكتبة الأصل

Europe refuses to budge on subsidies

Gatt talks head for disaster amid farm riots

From PETER GUILFORD AND MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

ATTEMPTS to create a global free trade regime were heading for disaster last night as Europe clashed with the rest of the world over its refusal to make deeper cuts in farm subsidies.

The conflict split on to the streets of Brussels yesterday when more than 30,000 farmers demanded that their subsidies be protected. Paramilitary police fired tear gas and water cannon to control the demonstrators after they tore out trees and traffic signs, and burned tyres.

More than a hundred countries are aiming to adopt a strategy to free commerce for the next century within five days, after four years of negotiations. But the process is stumbling over demands by America and other nations that European farm subsidies be cut by between 75 and 90 per cent. The community is offering only a fraction of those cuts. The 14-nation Cairns group, led by Australia, threatened to leave the talks today if the community did not shift its stance.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, said that "a



Carla Hills: "Time for rhetoric has passed"

crisis was brewing" at the talks. Britain's dependence on trade put it among those nations most perilously exposed to global recession if the talks broke down. Failure would throw the world back into protectionism and "beggar-my-neighbour" policies.

Arthur Dunkel, director-general of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) said the so-called Uruguay round of talks had only one week to achieve results. "This leaves us with no option but to negotiate, negotiate and negotiate and waste no time in political shadow boxing or mutual recrimination."

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, said there was a danger of a slide towards protectionism and political instability if the talks failed. "The fate of the round hangs in the balance. This is the final, I repeat the final, week of the Uruguay round. There will be no extension. The time for rhetoric has passed. Now is the time for straight talk and bottom lines." Her remarks destroyed any hopes that the Gatt talks could be delayed until February, giving America just enough time to push the results through Congress on the "fast track" by March 1.

Hills systematically dismissed crucial elements of the EC's complex reform package, describing the agriculture deadlock as the only obstacle to a worldwide economic renaissance. She put the prize for success at more than \$4,000 billion in the 1990s. If successful, the agreement would bring textiles, farming, copyright and investment rules under the control of a single free trade regime. Most delegates want one global package or nothing, so the farm dispute could scupper the entire deal.

The bitterness is focused on

Facing disaster, page 5
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Face of rebellion: a rebel soldier yesterday guarding the entrance to the armed forces headquarters in Buenos Aires after a dawn mutiny

Kinnock fights for political initiative

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock yesterday began a concerted campaign to regain the political initiative after the election of John Major and declared that he would lead Labour into government.

Branding pitchforks and blowing whistles, the farmers surged down streets only to be halted outside the deserted European Parliament. The crowd, some dressed in national dress, others in animal masks, then moved to a park near by for a rally denouncing the Gatt talks. Chris French of Britain said: "It's an expression of farmers' concern that we will not be sold down the river."

Labour leader dismissed speculation over his own position as absurd as he launched his party's plans for improving school standards, and Roy Hattersley outlined its new policy on Europe, referring to the "substantial advantages" of entry into monetary union.

Labour's attempt to move on to the offensive with detailed expositions of its own approach and claims that Mr Major is maintaining Thatcherite policies has been hindered by questions over Mr Kinnock's leadership, intensified by a weekend poll suggesting that the party might do better if he stepped down.

In his first remarks about the speculation, Mr Kinnock said that the only valid opinions were those of his colleagues. "With one voice, they have shown that the whole thesis put forward is absurd. That is certainly my view."

"The only joy I take from all this is the fact that, with such a spread of confidence among my colleagues, it removes any worry I might have had about what might be called the 'number 11 bus problem'. Consequently, not only will Labour be well led to victory and into government by me but, for decades after that, there are clearly large supplies of people of high quality who can succeed me when eventually I decide to depart the party."

At the education launch, John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, said talk of Mr Kinnock standing down was "absolute arrant nonsense". Sitting next to Mr Kinnock, he said: "Where does all this nonsense come from? Labour has had an outstanding period of regeneration and recovery under the leadership of Neil Kinnock which culminated in

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Single currency, page 6
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Norman Tebbit angrily con-

tinued Mr Kinnock's candidacy.

Parliament, politics, page 6

BA plans joint airline with base in Berlin

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways is recruiting pilots from throughout Europe to form crews for a new airline based in Berlin. The airline, in which BA will have a 49 per cent stake, could become one of biggest and most powerful in the world, providing a network of services linking cities in East and West Europe with other continents.

It is hoped that the airline — for which no name has yet been chosen — will be operational by the spring and provide direct competition with Lufthansa, while turning Berlin into a formidable "hub" airport. An advertisement for crew is to appear in tomorrow's edition of *Flight International* and calls for both pilots and co-pilots with licences which are "acceptable to the German authorities" to write to a box number. No mention is made of BA in the advertisements but an airline spokesman last night confirmed that it had placed the advertisement.

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Artillery attack on Argentine rebels

From MICHAEL SOLITY
IN BUENOS AIRES

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina ordered an artillery barrage yesterday on rebel troops who seized a suburb of Buenos Aires infantry garrison in a dawn mutiny in which three soldiers died. Field guns opened fire at the Patricios garrison two miles from the city centre. The rebels fired back with mortars.

Army headquarters in the centre of Buenos Aires, the nearby coastguard headquarters and a tank factory were also in rebel hands. The rebels said they recognised President Menem as commander-in-chief but demanded the appointment as army chief of a retired colonel, Mohamed Ali Seineidin, a commando officer and self-styled Falklands war hero, who led a rebellion against President Alfonsin's government in December 1988.

The rebels struck two days before President Bush's visit to Buenos Aires, seriously embarrassing President Menem, who declared a state of siege in the capital.

Bush visit, page 15

Tory storm over racist attack

By PETER VICTOR

A POLITICAL storm blew up last night after John Taylor, the barrister widely tipped to become the first black Conservative MP, was described as "ignorant". He dismissed the outburst as the rantings of a man "who holds no position or power" within the party and has written to Mr Taylor offering his support.

Mr Taylor said he would not be taking any action over Mr Galbraith's remarks. "I just feel very sorry for this man," he said. "It is not worth taking any action over his comments. I have got a job of work to do in Cheltenham and I want to get on with it."

• The prime minister yesterday gave his full backing to Mr Taylor (Nicholas Wood writes). Government sources said that John Major welcomed Mr Taylor's candidacy.

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Earthquake fever hits seven on Richter scale

From CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK

THOUSANDS of people across America's Midwest have braved freezing weather to stay outside in case the ground opens beneath them, the mighty Mississippi reverses its flow and Elvis is rocked in his grave.

The source of the biggest panic in memory to strike the normally sober heartland of America is a prediction by Iben Browning, a self-taught climatologist and business consultant, that the region would witness a catastrophic earthquake either yesterday or today.

The scorn of geologists and the mockery of the rest of the country has not been enough to deter residents, from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Chicago, Illinois, from taking precautions. Schools and offices across

Missouri and Kentucky have closed. In Memphis, Tennessee, corporations have told employees to stay home. Women and children have been sent away and some have set up tents in cotton fields. Even in Chicago, schools have been advising children how to shelter under desks.

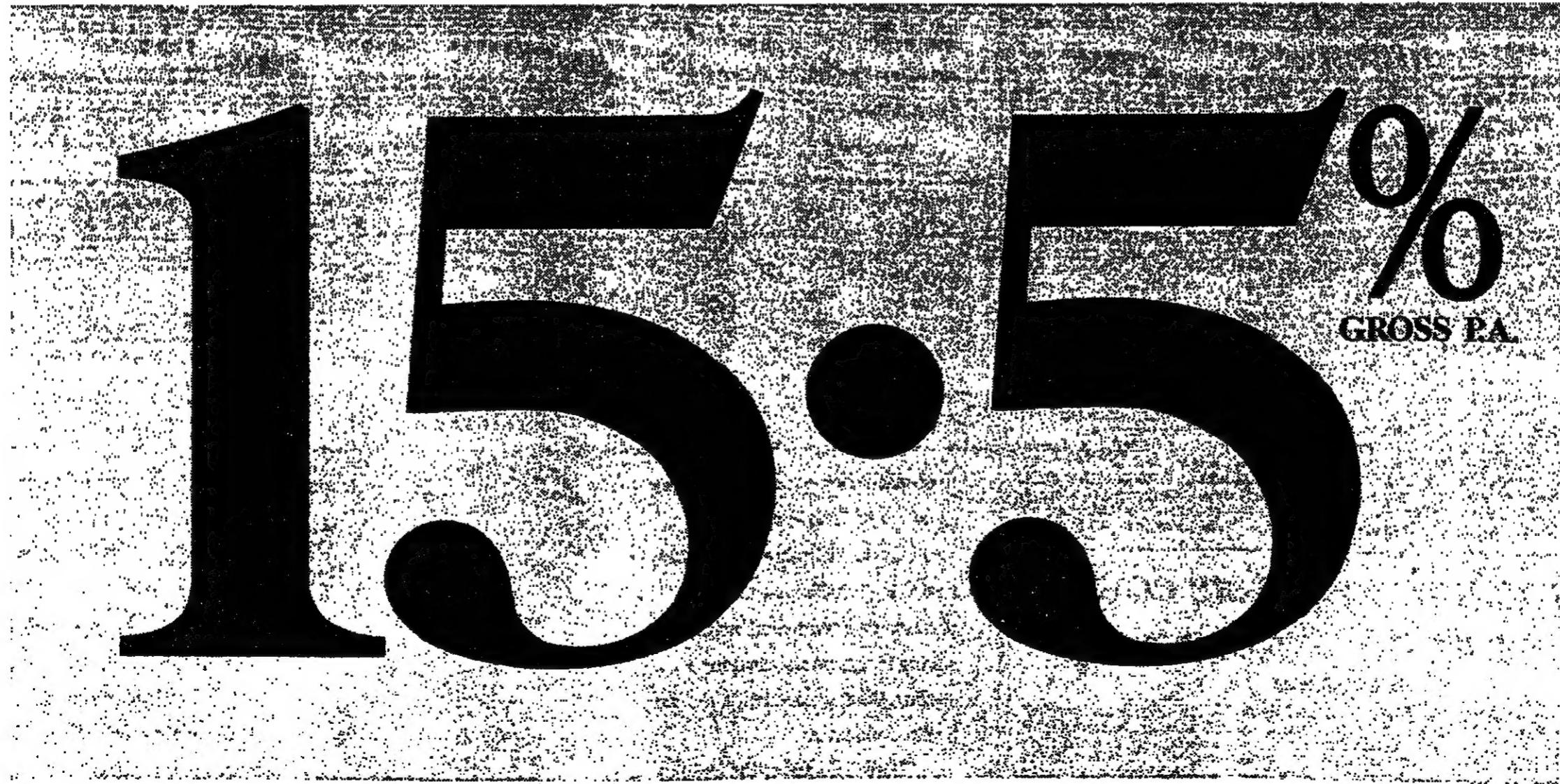
Geologists have long predicted tremors along the 120-mile New Madrid fault, but all scoffed at Mr Browning's forecast. However, Mr Browning, who claims to have predicted last year's San Francisco earthquake and the 1980 eruption of Mount St Helens volcano in Washington state, insisted that New Madrid was in for an earthquake measuring at least seven on the Richter scale. He has based his prediction in part on unusually strong tidal forces, which reached a 60-year peak early yesterday morning.

The town of 30,000 people, in the heart of the cotton-picking district, adopted something of a carnival atmosphere as reporters, preachers, tourists and rock bands flooded its streets waiting for the cataclysm. But the moment of greatest tidal forces passed without a tremor. Mr Browning reminded sceptics that today was also a high risk day.

The earthquake madness has also furnished fuel for the millennium-watching. End-of-the-world predictions, plentiful in the 1970s and 1980s, are expected to multiply as the third millennium approaches. In nearby Memphis Elvis Presley fans are standing guard to help preserve the late singer's home and burial site. "If the earth opens up I can't wait to see if Elvis is really in that grave," said one nightclub owner. Elasha Streicher, a preacher from Cincinnati, noted that he appeared to arrive just in time to save the town's soul. "The entire town needed to repent its sins, and fast" or God would destroy the city in 40 days.

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لماذا من الأصل

Farmers 'face disaster if subsidy cuts are imposed'

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH agriculture will slide from depression into disaster unless action is taken to arrest its decline, Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said yesterday at the annual Royal Smithfield Show at Earl's Court, London. Farm income this year was at its lowest level in real terms since the second world war, he said.

His warning came as thousands of farmers, including a British contingent, staged a protest march in Brussels against proposals for sharp cuts in farm subsidies which are being discussed by more than 100 nations as part of measures to liberalise world trade.

Sir Simon said: "Pressure from the Americans and their allies in the Gatt [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] talks has forced the

Fans tell of disorder at stadium on day 95 died

THERE was mass disorder outside Hillsborough football stadium shortly before 95 people were crushed to death inside the ground, a supporter told the inquest yesterday.

Another said the tunnel leading to the stand in which the supporters died was jam-packed solid before the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest on April 15 last year.

Mr Thomas Kenneth Hilton, an accountant's assistant clerk, of Thornton, Liverpool, told the ninth day of the inquest in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, that there were hundreds of people outside the ground when he arrived at about 2.40pm. "Everyone seemed to arrive at exactly the same time. It was a mass disorder. There were no queues at all."

Mr Graeme Hurst, a sales general manager from Crosby, Liverpool, said he made his way into the ground through the tunnel leading to the Leppings Lane stand at about 2.50pm. "The tunnel was jam-packed solid and you were carried with the general flow of people. The enclosure in front was jam-packed. There was no way you could move in there."

Graham Richardson, a Liverpool supporter, said the perimeter gates were closed when he arrived at the ground. "It was getting close to kick-off time so people were getting more and more angry." When the gates were opened he was forced on by the crush behind. People were shouting "get back", and a policeman at the front fence was trying to help by bending spikes on the railings. Mr Richardson said: "People were in distress and I did not have any difficulty realising that."

Shortly afterwards there was a smaller surge in the area where a crush barrier collapsed and Mr Richardson saw people falling over.

The hearing continues today.



Gourlay: only alternative is 'supply management'

Pension age test

The legality of Britain's unequal pensionable retirement ages is to be tested at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

A High Court judge yesterday referred the matter to Europe at the request of the Equal Opportunities Commission with the agreement of Tony Newton, the social security secretary. The aim is to seek a ruling on whether the different pensionable ages for men and women — 65 and 60 respectively — unlawfully discriminate against men under European law.

Prison art

Frank Cook, aged 38, who is serving a seven-year sentence in Hull prison for firearm offences, is to have two pieces of sculpture shown at the Metropolitan Gallery, New York, next year.

Zeebrugge case

A judge yesterday approved a proposal by relatives of Zeebrugge ferry disaster victims to bring a High Court test case against P & O European Ferries to claim damages for mental suffering. It will involve up to 12 claimants.

Woman dies

A man has been reported for murder and has been detained at a secure unit after the death of an elderly woman patient in the psychiatric ward of Watford general hospital on Sunday morning.

Soccer claim

Andrew Spencer, aged 29, a soccer supporter from Rothwell, Leeds, is suing police for the price of his match ticket after being wrongfully arrested when football fans noted at Bournemouth last season.

Fire death

A child died and two others were badly burnt when fire broke out in a flat in Northam, Southampton, yesterday. Their mother, Maggie Wright, was also seriously hurt after

where he notes to indulge in



Two ballet veterans, Dame Alicia Markova (right) and Dame Ninette de Valois, at Sadler's Wells theatre, London, after a ballet marking Dame Alicia's 80th birthday. Review, page 22

Hull presses for return of power to go with its prosperity

Michael Heseltine wants to allow cities to opt out of their surrounding counties. Peter Davenport reports on the view from one

SHOULD anyone call directory enquiries in Hull there will be no charge. The information will come not from British Telecom but from an operator working for the city's own communications company.

Unusual among cities within the UK, Hull maintains its own successful and innovative telephone service, run by a company formed and owned by the city council. It has provided subscribers with the latest digital equipment. Darryl Stephenson, Hull's deputy chief executive, said yesterday: "It does seem ironic that we can operate such a successful concern as the telephone company and yet we have lost our powers to provide many of the basic services to our customers."

The Labour-controlled city council has been campaigning for the restoration of its powers to deal with social services, education, waste disposal, strategic planning, fire and police services since it lost them to Humberside county council when it was created in 1974. "We want to be the enablers and providers of a full range of services to meet the needs of all our customers, tenants and industrial and commercial concerns. It will aid Hull's development into the next century as we become increasingly important as a gateway to Europe with all the opportunities that offers. Without the return of our powers it will be like fighting with one hand tied behind our back," Mr Stephenson said.

The decision of Michael

Heseltine, the environment secretary, to order an investigation by civil servants into the feasibility of allowing big cities to opt out of their surrounding counties would effectively re-create old, autonomous county boroughs. Hull is a member of the Major Cities Group which has been campaigning for the restoration of county borough status. Patrick Doyle, the leader of Hull council, is also chairman of the group. Last night he said the group would be seeking a meeting with Mr Heseltine in the new year to press their claims.

Last week the Boundary Commission said that the area on the south of the Humber should be returned to Lincolnshire and suggested that the part remaining on the north side of the river be renamed East Yorkshire in response to overwhelming public opinion. The present population of the county is 850,000 and there are complaints that Hull, with its 250,000 residents and being the centre for industry, business, commerce and shopping dominates the county.

City council officials argued yesterday that if the commission's

recommendations are accepted by Mr Heseltine, then the only sensible solution to local government on the north bank of the Humber would be to make Hull a county borough with a new authority catering for the remaining, mainly rural, area. Mr Stephenson said that the city could be used as a test bed for the rest of county borough powers in advance of the other members of the "big eleven" receiving the same treatment.

In the 16 years since it lost significant powers Hull has transformed itself from a city heavily dependent on its fishing fleet. Today it has a diverse economy handling a growing amount of import and export trade, oil refining and a sizable pharmaceutical sector.

Although the fishing fleet has diminished, fish is still an important element of the economy with 40 per cent of Iceland's total catch being landed at Hull and supplying a large, local processing industry. Almost £40 million of central and local government funding has financed 600 projects and pulled in large amounts of private capital.

Last week Helgi Agusson, the Icelandic ambassador to London, visited the city and was shown around its still changing waterfront and urban landscape. On seeing the improvements, he remarked: "Where is the recession I keep hearing about?"

Leading article, page 17



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Gould attack on tax move

By JOHN WINDER
AND PETER MULLIGAN

ENVIRONMENT

THE government was accused last night of turning the screw on the community charge, a system of local government finance in which it had lost confidence.

The attack was made by Bryan Gould, Labour spokesman on environment, during the second reading debate in the Commons of the bill to ensure that councils pass on to chargepayers the benefits of capping.

He said that the Community Charges (Substitute Setting) bill was the death knell of local government accountability and meant that every aspect of local government finance was now under central government control. It meant that, by implication, every poll tax bill sent out would have the assent of government.

Moving second reading, Michael Portillo, minister for local government, said that the bill closed a loophole brought to light in a case between the government and Lambeth council.

It would ensure, he said, that a budget reduction forced on a council by capping would feed through to the individual community charge payer.

He told MPs that the council, which had set its post-capping poll tax at £521 a head, £29 above the figure suggested by the government, was ruled to have been acting lawfully.

He said: "It would be wrong in principle for us to leave in place a loophole which enables an authority to deny its charge payers the full benefit of capping. This bill puts the matter beyond doubt for the future."

Letters, page 17

Labour takes another step nearer single currency

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE

THE Labour leadership's gradual move towards acceptance of a European single currency was underlined yesterday as Roy Hattersley spoke of the substantial advantages of monetary union and proposed that any central bank established by the European Community should be located in London.

Mr Hattersley said it would be madness for Britain to pretend that Britain's EC partners could be deflected from their determination to build the new Europe. Britain must be in the fast lane and on the high ground, he said.

Although the deputy leader maintained Labour's refusal to put timetable on monetary union or the introduction of a single currency, he quoted approvingly from its new policy document on Europe which stated that it would be against the national interest for Britain to allow itself to be excluded from developments towards full union and a single currency.

Labour's new policy stance has provoked alarm among its surviving anti-marketeers.

Peter Shore, the former cabinet minister, said last night that it would be outright lunacy for Britain to accept proposals for a single currency and a "Eurobank" in the EC. "These proposals would not only impose unacceptable strains on the weaker economies of the EC but would effectively exclude from membership for decades to come the recently liberated countries of central and eastern Europe," he said.

Mr Hattersley again underlined Labour's stance that union would have to be preceded by movement towards convergence of the richer and poorer economies in the EC. That would include similarity of inflation rates, and balanced growth of consumption and production.

He said: "If there is a two-speed or two-tier Europe, Britain must be in the fast lane and on the high ground. That is not a matter of pomposity or pride. It is a matter of clear economic necessity and national interest."

He said the case for Britain's playing a positive and creative part in deciding the direction of Europe's inevitable development was overwhelming.

"We are to abdicate and allow Europe to move on without us, there is no doubt what the outcome would be. Five years after the creation of monetary and social union by the rest of the Community Britain would make a belated application to join."

Mr Hattersley said that Labour would press for London to be the headquarters of a European central bank that would be required by monetary union. "London possesses the expertise which certainly equals and probably exceeds that available anywhere else in the Community. It would certainly not be in the City's interest for it to be located in any other capital."

Talk of monetary union had raised again all the old arguments about sovereignty. But it was at least arguable that a country within a monetary union – able to influence the level of interest rates and the supply of money – was more sovereign than a nation outside which had to wait to see what the union decided.

Sometimes sovereignty was increased when it was pooled.

Mr Hattersley backed an enlarged Community, taking in Austria, Sweden, Norway, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Labour Research studied the accounts of more than 3,000 firms quoted on the stock exchange and about 2,500 private companies. It traced 244 firms making donations to the party.

According to the survey, eight companies increased their payments by at least £20,000.

Taylor Woodrow, the construction firm, gave an extra £160,000 to the party.

Labour Research cited recent reports that the Tories are 25 million in the red. It says that Chris Patten, the new party chairman, and Lord Beaverbrook, the treasurer, have work to do to find the £20 million the party needs to fight the next election.

16% rise in firms' Tory donations

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPANY donations to the Conservative party rose by 16 per cent last year, according to a survey carried out by a union-backed research body.

Gifts totalled £3.4 million in the 12 months to the end of March, £500,000 more than the previous year.

Labour Research studied the accounts of more than 3,000 firms quoted on the stock exchange and about 2,500 private companies. It traced 244 firms making donations to the party.

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Washington hawks fear deal as they count days to war

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THIS YEAR the smart Advent calendar for Washingtonians marks the tides and moons in the Middle East as well as the Wise Men's Advent Star. It goes beyond Christmas Day to the tenth of Ramadan on March 26. Each date in the countdown to religious celebration is also a date nearer to January 15 approaches.

Those nights on which possible invasion beaches are made narrow by the tide are marked with the war sign of a coloured wave; those with moonless nights to hide invaders are marked with a black crescent; those with both, such as December 19 to 22, are the ones coloured red.

Signs of peace-and-good-will come on the dates of the week beginning December 12, when Iraqi Foreign minister Tariq Aziz has been invited to Washington; also between the dates of December 15 and January 15, the day on which the United Nations mandate to use force comes into effect, and the last date on which Secretary of State James Baker is likely to go to Baghdad.

In the days since President Bush made his dramatic offer of direct talks with Iraq, Washington has become increasingly divided over what the move means. Official voices within the administration insist that the planned meetings with President Saddam Hussein and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, will not be forums in which concessions will be made to Iraq either before or after withdrawal of its occupying force in Kuwait.

Another prominent hawk, William Safire, a columnist on

the *New York Times*, argues that Mr Baker himself is by nature and instinct almost certain to offer President Saddam a deal that will allow Iraq to retain its military might and enable the dictator to claim credit for subsequent Middle East peace conferences on the Palestinian question. Israeli diplomats, too, fear

that January 15 approaches.

The debate for peace or war, they say, is still open. Nevertheless, the moonless, high-water nights of January 17 to 20 and February 16 to 18 are almost certainly ringed in red on administration calendars.

In general the official voice in Washington is hawkish — too hawkish for several senators who listened to Dick Cheney, the defence secretary, yesterday. None the less, for many hawks outside the administration the prospects for an apes' peace are still too high. Among others, the diplomatic overtures have alarmed Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, who argues that, far from discouraging would-be mediators, the Baker mission will encourage self-styled peace-makers to conduct mercy dashes to Baghdad.

The result, he believes, would be a fragmentation of the alliance, postponement of the UN deadline, and a stretching out of the military option into the days of Ramadan and the Haj pilgrimage. In such circumstances, Dr Kissinger says, Saudi Arabia's own Islamic institutions will be under pressure that may be intolerable.

Another prominent hawk, William Safire, a columnist on



Time to go: part of the 400-truck convoy of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, which withdrew from Beirut to comply with a peace agreement

Sanctions spur resourceful Iraqis to produce bumper food crops

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

SANCTIONS may have begun to bite in some areas of the Iraqi economy but the peasants are demonstrating that some sectors can survive, even thrive, under the most stringent embargo.

An elderly Kurdish farmer could barely conceal his pride when he was interviewed on Iraqi television's version of *The Farming World*, recounting in detail this season's increased crop output. With US-Iraqi talks taking place in the coming weeks, ahead of the January 15 UN deadline

for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, the answer to whether sanctions would have worked in the long term by bringing the Iraqi regime to its knees may never be known.

But there is mounting evidence that the sanctions policy failed to take account of Iraq's ability to adapt and survive. After sanctions were first imposed, economic counsellors from the embassies of member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development had

private talks in Baghdad on

August 16 to assess Iraq's vulnerability to the embargo. "With hindsight, the assessments proved to be way off the mark," a diplomat who attended the meeting said. "In particular, I recall one specialist calculating that the country had enough sugar for only 19 days and yet, four months later, it is still available in the shops along with most other goods."

One example of Iraq's adaptability occurred in October when the then oil minister announced petrol rationing because Iraq did not have the chemical additives needed to refine its crude oil. Within a week, however, another government ministry found that it could manufacture the chemicals. Rationing was lifted, and the oil minister lost his job.

The military sector has displayed a similar resilience, and Western experts said that Iraq has continued its research and development projects.

Before August, Baghdad had relied on overseas suppliers for as much as 75 per cent of its food needs, but the agricultural sector, long neglected by a government with defence and technology priorities, has thrived now that resources have been diverted to farmers. Although basic

sugar, are rationed, Baghdad's shops are laden with locally produced meat, vegetables, fruit and such luxury goods as cigarettes and whisky, which have been smuggled in from Jordan, Turkey and Iran.

Haumam al-Shamah, a professor of economics at Baghdad University who recently completed a survey on the impact of sanctions, said the industrial sector had been hit by the embargo and 5 to 7 per cent of factories had shut.

"We estimate that 40 per cent of non-military industry would close down in one year, and that by the end of the second year the entire sector would come to a halt if the present conditions persisted," he said. "However, as far as agriculture goes, Iraq should never suffer from shortages, and we estimate that we will actually have a surplus of wheat in a year's time."

One Western diplomat conceded that it was fortunate that the sanctions policy had been eclipsed by diplomatic moves. "I actually had one Iraqi come up and thank me the other day," he said. "He told me that they had tried for years to become agriculturally self-sufficient, and that it looked as though the embargo would accomplish it for them in a matter of months."

Beirut sees last militia go

By ALI JABER
IN BEIRUT AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR the first time since the civil war started in 1976, Beirut was yesterday freed of all private armies and militias with the withdrawal of the most formidable of them, the Christian Lebanese Forces, from the Lebanese capital.

The strength of the Lebanese Forces was evident from the 400-strong truck convoy which wound its way out of their stronghold in the Ashrafieh district of east Beirut and headed for the mountains, flying their own red-and-white flags and with tanks plastered with posters of Samir Geagea, their leader.

The convoy included Soviet-made T-54 tanks, 240-mm mortars, 155-mm artillery, armoured personnel carriers, multi-barrel rocket launchers and jeeps and trucks loaded with tonnes of ammunition. A spokesman for the 2,000 militiamen on the march said their ammunition depots had been cleared out. Government troops guarded their route along the coastal highway as thousands of people, many surprised by the arsenal, lined the roadside.

The Christian militia's withdrawal followed that of the Hezbollah, Amal and Druze Muslim militias. With the capital now free of warring armies, 1,200 government troops, consisting of two army brigades and an infantry battalion, moved into the Christian neighbourhoods in east Beirut to secure the area.

But in Beirut's southern slums, Hezbollah guards at the entrance of their Neor el-Abed headquarters had not relinquished their weapons, in defiance of an army communiqué which gave a warning that all weapons would be seized and their owners arrested.

Once the Lebanese army completes its deployment, President Hrawi intends to form a new cabinet to bring in the warlords. He would then enlarge the parliament and start a diplomatic campaign to force Israel to withdraw from its "security zone". The peace plan calls for the disbanding of all militia by next March and a Syrian troop withdrawal by September 1992.

Arabs in Israeli raid given long jail terms

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday imposed heavy prison sentences on the 12 Arab gunmen who shot five seafarers and killed an Israeli beach seven months ago led Washington to break off the dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and thus contributed to the collapse of the Middle East peace process.

The gunmen, all between the ages of 20 and 30, and from the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu Abbas, were each given 30 years in prison by a military court at Lod. Their leader, Ahmed Khalil al-Wazir, aged 20, shouted defiantly in Arabic: "a Palestinian state will arise".

The underground leadership of the *intifada* or Pales-

tinian uprising yesterday marked the approaching third anniversary of the revolt by saying that "all means of struggle" should be used from now on, an instruction widely interpreted to mean an endorsement by the *intifada* leadership of the use of guns as well as stones and knives in a bid to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Israeli security sources said the May 30 raid on a crowded beach at Nitzanim, near Tel Aviv, had been launched from Libya. The attack was foiled and no Israeli lives were lost. The prosecution said plans carried by the gunmen showed they had intended to launch attacks on hotels and Western embassies in Tel Aviv.

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Victorious Kohl faces problem in sending troops to Gulf



Lafontaine: encouraging peace missions to Iraq

BEFORE the election Helmut Kohl promised that a united Germany would shoulder its international responsibilities. Now the West is waiting to see whether the new German superpower will make good that pledge.

Herr Kohl made the promise most recently when President Bush visited him in the Rhineland last month and politely pressed him for a greater commitment to helping shoulder the burden of international responsibility. The American president had made no secret in the autumn that he was disappointed by the meagre German support he

had received in responding to the Gulf situation and he pressed Herr Kohl to take a more positive lead in future.

The chancellor was quick to assure President Bush that he would act as soon as the elections were over. He could not do it until then, he explained, because an amendment to the German Basic Law was necessary in order to make it possible for Germany to send troops outside Nato's area. That amendment would need to be passed by the new Bundestag. It is a promise which will not be easy to keep.

The entire Basic Law

must now have to be revamped; it was originally

written only to last until unification made it possible to create a constitution.

An amendment to allow troops to serve outside Nato areas will be contentious and hard to draft. As the Basic Law stands, the Bundeswehr can be used "for the maintenance of peace". Germany is allowed to "enter a system of collective security" in doing so it

will consent to such limitations upon its rights of sovereignty as will bring about secure and lasting order in Europe and among nations of the world".

Some, like Rupert Scholz, a right-wing lawyer and former defence minister, argue that as it stands this would allow the Bundeswehr to serve outside Nato's area "for the maintenance

of peace". Herr Kohl, however, accepts the majority view that the phrase does restrict deployment, which is why he has promised amendments.

There is, however, no widespread support for sending the Bundeswehr overseas. Oskar Lafontaine, the defeated Social Democratic candidate for chancellor, struck a popular note when he asked sarcastically during the campaign if the first act of the new, "great" Germany would be to send troops to war in the Gulf.

It was better to deploy Willy Brandt for peace than to deploy the Bundeswehr for war, he said. Herr

Lafontaine's views are important, because any amendment to the Basic Law will require a two-thirds majority of the Bundestag, and without the SPD

Herr Kohl cannot achieve this. He will also face problems within his own coalition, for the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) are unhappy about sending German troops abroad. It is part of a deep, postwar German worry that sending soldiers overseas has bad historic implications.

The FDP might be prepared to see troops go abroad, but only as part of a peace-keeping force under UN command and only if

another amendment prohibiting German arms sales abroad was also included. There would be insufficient support for an amendment which would allow German soldiers to join a Gulf war.

Apart from this issue is the question of turning the Basic Law into a constitution. A two-thirds majority is also needed for this and Herr Kohl faces a potential revolt from right-wingers unhappy about losing any possible claim on Polish territory.

The SPD, moreover, believes that the new constitution ought to be put to the population in the form of a referendum.

Liberals able to keep the chancellor in check

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl starts today the delicate task of forming a new coalition government which will be charged with overseeing the restructuring of eastern Germany. After their sweeping joint victory on Sunday, the three coalition parties will have a majority of 134, the biggest in the history of the Bundestag, with which to press through their policies. Their greatest political difficulties, therefore, threaten to be internal rather than external.

This is evident from the fact that Herr Kohl has been emphasising that there is no time pressure now. Before the election he said he hoped to announce the names of his new government before Christmas. Yesterday, he was saying that he had all the time in the world; that four years was a long time to work together and that careful preparation was all important.

He spoke during the day with both Count Otto Lansdorff, leader of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), and with the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) to make preliminary arrangements for coalition negotiations. Significantly he decided to hold discussions first with the CSU, before calling in the FDP, which is certain to want a larger say in policy as well as a higher number of portfolios as its price for joining the government.

Despite Herr Kohl's vote-winning role as "the chancellor of unity", his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) had its worst election result since he became chancellor in 1982. Although the two sister CDU-CSU parties maintained their position as the largest group in the Bundestag, the FDP was the party which gave the coalition its overwhelming majority, picking up votes everywhere in the country and decisively seizing the balance of power.

In Halle, where Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the party's best-known member was born, an FDP candidate even managed to win a direct mandate, the first time the party has achieved this. Although anxious to form a new coalition with Herr Kohl, the FDP has won enough seats to make it possible to bring the Social Democrats (SPD) back to power if it decides to change sides, as it did when it joined the CDU in 1982.

Whether the FDP considers it wise to make a switch depends on how successful Herr Kohl and his new team are in restructuring eastern Germany while protecting the value of the Deutschmark in western pockets.

If things start going badly wrong and Herr Kohl looks like losing the next election in 1994, the FDP is quite capable of switching its allegiance in order to stay in government, particularly if Herr Kohl has not followed the kind of

policies the liberals have been advocating. They have been calling for lower tax levels in the east than in the west, for heavy cuts in defence spending, including axing the European Fighter Aircraft, and for new priorities in public spending. The liberals also want a new law on abortion reform, which will be difficult for the Catholic side of the CDU to accept.

One senior FDP member who will not be available for the cabinet is Helmut Haussmann, economics minister for the past two years, who announced yesterday that after 20 years of political activity he wanted to have more free time.

The SPD is relying on its gloomy economic forecasts coming true as its best hope of recovering from its worst defeat since 1953. It has decided to choose its defeated candidate, Oskar Lafontaine, to take over as party leader, although he will not take his seat in the Bundestag, leaving the task of running the party there to Hans-Jochen Vogel, the former president.

Herr Lafontaine has been encouraged by the fact that younger voters everywhere were choosing the SPD, while the party made modest but real advances all over eastern Germany after its disastrous showing in the Volkswaerth elections there last March.

Herr Kohl, he said yesterday, had been elected by the old, nostalgic generation. His heavy defeat was tempered by the fact that he increased his party's vote by over 7 per cent in his home territory of Saarland and was elected directly as a constituency member. In the Rhineland-Palatinate, Herr Kohl only held his seat through being picked as the lead CDU candidate on the state list.

Herr Lafontaine has now told his supporters that the SPD has



GERMAN ELECTIONS - 1990

	%	Seats	West Turnout 78.5 (84.3)	East Turnout 74.5 (83.6)
CDU	36.7	239	35.9 (37)	43.4 (42.7)
CSU (DSU in East)	7.1	51	8.1 (8.8)	1.0 (6.5)
FDP	11.0	79	10.8 (9.1)	13.4 (5.6)
Coalition total	54.8	372	55.6 (55.9)	56.8 (n/a)
SPD	33.5	239	35.9 (37)	23.6 (20.8)
PDS	2.4	17	0.3 (-)	9.9 (15.2)
Allianz '90/Greens	1.2	8	-	5.9 (-)
Greens	3.0	-	4.7 (8.3)	-
Republicans	2.1	-	2.3 (-)	1.3 (-)
Others (16 parties)	2.1	-	-	-
Total	100	636	-	-

National (1987 in West Germany and March, 1990, in East Germany in brackets) Turnout 77.8%

BERLIN

Simultaneous vote for Bundestag and City Council		
General election result		City election result
	Turnout 81.1%	Turnout 81%
CDU	39.3	12
FDP	9.3	9
SPD	30.5	-
All '90/Gr	3.9	-
PDS	3.3	1
Greens	3.3	4.0
Repub	2.4	9.2

First election in a unified city so no comparison possible. Alternative List only in West Berlin. Allianz '90 only in East Berlin. Seats for Bundestag only

HOW THE STATES VOTED

Brandenburg Turnout 74.0 (83.54)			Lower Saxony Turnout 80.7 (85.6)			Saxony Turnout 76.4 (83.6)		
	%	Seats		%	Seats		%	Seats
CDU	36.3 (33.6)	8	CDU	44.3 (41.5)	31	CDU	49.5 (44.4)	21
FDP	8.7 (4.7)	2	FDP	10.3 (8.8)	7	FDP	12.4 (5.7)	5
SPD	32.0 (29.9)	7	SPD	38.4 (31.4)	27	SPD	30.5	-
All '90/Gr	6.6 (2.2)	1	Greens	4.5 (7.4)	-	Greens	5.0	-
PDS	11.0 (18.3)	3	PDS	0.3 (-)	-	PDS	9.0 (13.6)	4
Repub	1.7 (-)	-	Repub	1.0 (-)	-	Repub	1.2 (-)	-

Bremen Turnout 76.5 (82.7)			North Rhine-Westphalia Turnout 78.7 (85.4)			Saxony-Anhalt Turnout 72.4 (83.41)		
	%	Seats		%	Seats		%	Seats
CDU	30.0 (29.9)	2	CDU	40.5 (40.1)	63	CDU	38.6 (44.5)	12
FDP	12.8 (6.8)	1	FDP	11.0 (8.4)	17	FDP	12.4 (7.7)	5
SPD	42.5 (46.5)	3	SPD	41.1 (43.2)	65	SPD	24.7 (23.7)	8
Greens	5.3 (14.5)	-	Greens	4.3 (7.5)	-	Greens	5.3 (7.1)	-
PDS	1.1 (-)	-	PDS	0.3 (-)	-	PDS	9.4 (14.0)	2
Repub	2.1 (-)	-	Repub	1.3 (-)	-	Repub	0.6 (-)	-

Baden-Württemberg Turnout 77.5 (83.1)			Hamburg Turnout 76.3 (83.0)			Rhineland-Palatinate Turnout 81.6 (86.7)		
	%	Seats		%	Seats		%	Seats
CDU	46.5 (46.7)	39	CDU	36.6 (37.4)	6	CDU	45.6 (45.1)	17
FDP	12.3 (12.0)	10	FDP	12.0 (12.8)	2	FDP	10.4 (9.1)	4
SPD	23.1 (23.3)	24	SPD	41.0 (41.2)	6	SPD	38.1 (37.1)	13
Greens	5.7 (10.0)	-	Greens	5.8 (11.0)	-	Greens	4.0 (7.5)	-
PDS	0.3 (-)	-	PDS	1.1 (-)	-	PDS	0.2 (-)	-
Repub	5.2 (-)	-	Repub	1.7 (-)	-	Repub	1.7 (-)	-

Bavaria Turnout 74.5 (81.7)			Hesse Turnout 81.0 (85.7)			Sachsen-Anhalt		

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From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

Russia takes radical step to private land ownership

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

LEGISLATORS of the Russian Federation last night overcame bitter opposition from conservatives to cast an historic vote in favour of the principle of private ownership of land, albeit subject to draconian restrictions.

In a great tactical victory for Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, and his radical supporters, a resolution approving private holdings was hedged about with tight conditions to mollify hardliners and secure a 602-369 vote in its favour.

The main condition, designed to meet ideological objections and fears that property will be concentrated in criminal or foreign hands, is that land may only be bought from, and sold back to, the locally elected authorities.

Land may not be sold for 10 years after its acquisition, according to another provision in the resolution that was adopted after heated debate in the Russian legislature.

Conservative deputies from rural areas, where collective farm chairmen wield enormous influence, argued persistently that private land

holdings were immoral, unpopular and too important a change to be introduced without a referendum.

Although the idea of taking land on long lease and bequeathing it to one's children has been accepted for the Soviet Union as a whole, outright ownership of land marks a historic break with communist principles brutally enforced during the collectivisation of land in the 1930s.

President Gorbachev has recently made it clear that he objects on ideological grounds to absolute ownership of land.

Radical supporters of private property predicted that the restrictions on ownership would in practice fall by the wayside over the next few years. "In the circumstances, this was a major achievement," said Yevgeni Kim, a deputy from the Soviet Far East who is one of the leading advocates of rapid political change.

The debate was skilfully chaired by Mr Yeltsin, who had to use great tactical skill to avoid acrimony between radicals and conservatives getting out of hand. At one point he rebuked a radical who proposed holding a referendum on land ownership but on confiscating all the Communist Party's property.

Other parts of the resolution call for big investment in agriculture to improve what is widely agreed to be the wretched economic state of many rural areas of the Russian Federation.

● TOKYO: Japan announced yesterday that it will send transport experts to Moscow next month to help the Soviet Union make its outmoded distribution and warehousing system more efficient (Joe Joseph writes).

Tokyo, whose relations with Moscow are cool because of a long-running territorial dispute over the Kurile islands, blames the empty shelves in Soviet food shops on poor distribution rather than scarce supplies. Taizo Watanabe, Japan's foreign ministry spokesman, said: "When the wheat harvest is the best in recent years, why do people starve? There is no easy answer."

Discipline first, page 16

Warnings voiced in Moscow

From BRUCE CLARK
IN MOSCOW

GRAVE warnings about the Soviet Union's explosive social climate were issued by conservatives as well as radicals when both groups held meetings here at the weekend to rally their forces for an intensifying political struggle.

At a gathering of the hardline parliamentary group Sosny, it threatened to introduce a motion of no-confidence in President Gorbachev, and its founder, Colonel Viktor Alksnis, proposed a strict state of emergency.

The other meeting was the first congress of the Democratic Party of Russia, founded six months ago. It was intended to launch an uncompromising struggle against the Communists in factories, ministries and the armed forces, as well as at the hustings.

In a statement it issued a warning about the danger of violence caused by rising political and social tensions. "The resort to force in current conditions will lead to bloody events on an enormous scale, possibly even worldwide catastrophe," it said.

At the Sosny meeting, Colonel Alksnis spelt out his proposals for a state of emergency, saying that parliaments at all levels should be dissolved and the Congress of People's Deputies, the supreme legislature which is due to convene on December 17, should as its final act appoint a committee of national salvation with wide powers.

Colonel Alksnis said of President Gorbachev: "I highly respect his quality and his honour... but his trouble is that he is a romantic democrat, and now that the country is on the brink of national catastrophe he does not suit this cruel period."

However, the Sosny movement is expected to wait until the last moment before announcing whether it will in fact introduce a no-confidence motion.

The first snows have fallen on Eastern Europe. In Warsaw's Eastern railway station, where hundreds of Romanian and Bulgarian refugees spend the night - their day is occupied with begging - the swaddled mothers heat up the billycans for supper and spread blankets on the floor.

Occasionally, as passengers enter for late-night trains, a coat of snow sprinkles the sleeping children.

Doctors say that 80 per cent of the refugee children are suffering from contagious diseases but the parents refuse hospital treatment, fearing that this is the first move towards expulsion and a forced return to an even colder winter in the Balkans.

There are 50,000 Romanian refugees in Poland, several thousand Bulgarians, and, it is feared, within months there could be thousands upon thousands of Belorussians and Ukrainians (or ethnic Poles from those republics) crossing the Bug river and the poorly patrolled Soviet-Polish frontier.

Eastern Europe is heading for deep recession and economic misery as bad as anything experienced since the winter of 1945. The Gulf confrontation in particular is putting the squeeze on the East European economies. The Hungarian finance minister, Dr Ferenc Rabar, estimates that every \$1 rise in oil



Uniform appearance: Soviet riot police, seen here wearing new uniforms, line up to confront demonstrators in Kiev. The protesters were complaining about food rationing, which has been imposed in Kiev and elsewhere

Treaty blow to Baltic hopes

From MARY DEDEKSY IN MOSCOW

REPUBLICS of the Soviet Union which do not sign the new Treaty of Union will be regarded as subject to the old treaty and not as having seceded.

This clarification, given yesterday by Rifaat Nishanov, chairman of the parliament's Council of Nationalities, appears to dash the hopes of the Baltic republics and Georgia that their refusal to sign would be tantamount to leaving the union.

Mr Nishanov was presenting the draft union treaty to the Soviet parliament, the first time the document has been given a public airing since it was published 10 days ago. President Gorbachev, who sees the new treaty as crucial to holding the Soviet Union together, was present.

The parliaments of the Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have voted for independence from the Soviet Union and the present Georgian government was elected on a platform of full independence.

The ruling that these republics will remain subject to the old treaty unless they sign the

new one means that they will be expected to follow the ponderous procedures laid down in the law on secession.

A Baltic deputy, Mikhail Bronstein, objected in vain that as the republics had not signed the original treaty of 1922, they could not be held to its provisions.

The draft union treaty makes no mention of secession. It stipulates only that membership of the union is voluntary and that members

can vote to expel a member which violates the terms of the treaty. Challenged to say how a republic could secede, Mr Nishanov said that any break-up of the union could only be a "step backward".

He pointed out that republics could not only delegate more powers to the centre by special negotiation, but could also be granted more powers by the centre. This might offer the would-be independent republics a small loophole.

Another question preoccupies parliamentarians. Why had the draft treaty replaced the word "sovietists" with the word "sovereign" in the title of the USSR? This is

likely to arouse intense debate at the full Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, which opens in two weeks' time.

Deputies considered their own role in the new structure, which provides for a lower chamber, as at present, but an upper chamber made up of nominees from the republics and ethnic minorities.

The Chamber of Nationalities questioned whether nomination was more democratic than direct election.

The Chamber of the Union members were also unhappy, fearing that the proposed new role of the Council of the Federation, meant that it would take over many of the functions of parliament. At present, the council, consisting of the presidents, prime ministers and communist party leaders of the 15 republics, has a purely advisory role.

According to Mr Nishanov, a distinction will be drawn between autonomous republics, which will be treated like full republics, able to sign the treaty themselves, and the others who will be treated as subject, as at present, to the

union republic. This means that the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh will have to come to an agreement with the republic of Azerbaijan. South Ossetia will have to negotiate with Georgia.

As these regions are already at loggerheads with their republics, this would be a recipe for even more civil turmoil.

The only republic which contains smaller autonomous republics is the Russian Federation, and the distinction drawn yesterday can be interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to sign the treaty in its present form. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, has argued for a looser form of union in which the republics are virtual sovereign states in their own right.

The autonomous areas, populated by and large by ethnic minorities, have traditionally regarded the central Soviet authorities as providing protection against the majority. Their fears have been used in turn to further the interests of the centre against individual republics.

Poverty puts Poland under siege

From ROGER BOVES IN WARSAW

THE first snows have fallen on Eastern Europe. In Warsaw's Eastern railway station, where hundreds of Romanian and Bulgarian refugees spend the night - their day is occupied with begging - the swaddled mothers heat up the billycans for supper and spread blankets on the floor.

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For its eastern neighbours, Poland is now a relatively prosperous destination. There are no food shortages, the cars and buses still run, the flats are heated. Yet the Poles see it differently. There are perhaps 45,000 people waiting for a visa to America. Others are waiting for the Germans to keep their promise to ease visa restrictions. Then the young Poles will make their escape from the would-be capitalism at home to the real thing.

Eastern Europe is heading for deep recession and economic misery as bad as anything experienced since the winter of 1945. The Gulf confrontation in particular is putting the squeeze on the East European economies.

The Hungarian finance minister, Dr Ferenc Rabar, estimates that every \$1 rise in oil

prices adds \$45 million (£22 million) to the Hungarian fuel bill. At the same time the Soviet Union is cutting back its deliveries to all East European countries. From January 1 all trade with the Soviet Union will be denominated in dollars - the era of swapping Bulgarian strawberry jam or suspect Czech shoes for gas and oil is over.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have at least managed to scrape together some reserves over the past year and have enough cash to pay for essential fuel supplies. But they are finding that the Soviet Union is no longer interested in their engineering products, their traditional exports, and that contracts with the former East Germany are not being renewed. The result - factory closures throughout the region.

Bulgaria presents probably the saddest picture. For years it thought of itself as the market garden of socialism, incomparably better off than Ceausescu's Romania. Now the standard of living has slipped dramatically and has reached an almost Romanian nadir. Food shops are open only a few hours a day. Bread is difficult to get and there are shortages of many other staples.

Even in Sofia electricity is cut off every three hours for an hour or so. The blackouts are growing more frequent, partly because of the closing of two reactors in Bulgaria's only nuclear power station at Kozloduy.

The strains that this economic winter is putting on young democratic institutions can be seen throughout the region. Social envy, the accumulated anger of the workers, this is the new revolutionary passion. Yesterday in the middle of Warsaw there was an impatient, disorderly queue of women fighting to buy fur coats for more than £2,000 a piece. The expression on the faces of the passers-by, full of fury and disgust, was an eloquent warning of the trouble ahead.

Ershad lifts press controls

Dhaka - President Ershad of Bangladesh yesterday lifted press censorship imposed under a state of emergency a week ago, as the country braced itself for an indefinite strike from today.

Earlier the president had urged security forces to deal harshly with demonstrators. The opposition parties have urged all workers to strike for eight hours a day from today. They want President Ershad to resign and hand over to an interim government before free elections can be held. (Reuters)

Rebels close in

Mogadishu - United Somalis Congress rebels were only 30 miles northeast of the capital, Mogadishu, according to a correspondent who spent four days in the rebel zone. Advance units were only two hours away by road. In the capital, several people have been killed in four days of clashes between rival clans, witnesses said. (AFP, Reuters)

Aid for China

Peking - Italy and Spain will be the first EC countries to renew aid and loans to China, suspended after the Tiananmen Square killings. The *China Daily* said the move followed a visit to the two countries by a high-level delegation in November, the first since the partial lifting of community sanctions last month. (AFP)

3,000 homeless

Moscow - Three thousand people have been left homeless by an earthquake late in Kirghizia in Soviet Central Asia, but no lives were lost. Tass said the earthquake registered 6.5 on the 12-point Mercalli scale. Its epicentre was near Uzgen in the west of the republic. Tents and basic essentials had been sent to the area. (AFP)

Bhopal protest

Bhopal - About 5,000 survivors of the 1984 gas leak that killed about 1,750 people demonstrated outside the Union Carbide pesticide factory here. They chanted slogans and burnt effigies to mark the sixth anniversary of the industrial disaster. (AFP)

MADRID NOTEBOOK by Juan Carlos Gomucio

Sins of the rich spice Spain's cafe gossip

MADRID's stuffy political establishment may have survived its first serious battle with the Roman Catholic Church, but the war is far from over. The latest pastime in Madrid's cafes is guessing who the bishops were aiming at when they fired salvos against abuse of power and overall "moral degradation".

There is consensus that the bishops were thinking quite a lot about Señor Alfonso Guerra lately. The deputy prime minister is married and his wife lives in Seville, but he lives with an attractive actress and their young daughter in Madrid. His younger brother, Juan, is thought to have amassed a small fortune overnight thanks to his good connections with the ruling Socialist Party and the still unexplained use of a rent-free government office.

Perhaps a more difficult task in the bar talk of Madrid is trying to identify the one main target of the bishops' observation that Socialists in Spain, far from narrowing the economic gap, have helped to promote a harmful admiration for luxury and hedonism. Some interpre-

tters of the Church's criticism name Isabel Preysler, the Manila-born former wife of the singer, Julio Iglesias, who now in her third marriage is wedded to Miguel Boyer, a former Socialist cabinet minister and prominent banker. Parties at their 44-room mansion never fail to make big headlines, but it is hard to compete with the attention drawn by other Socialist-favoured socialites or even their spouses.

The Baroness von Thyssen, the former Miss Spain, Carmen Cervera, is fighting a legal battle involving millions of pesetas against someone who was bitten by her dog. Another admired name among get-rich-quick Spaniards is that of Mario Conde, the Galician banker whose spectacular rise to riches is the model for business students. Gossip specialists say there is little doubt that the bishops were referring to the socially accepted and much publicised romance of Alberto Cortina and beautiful Marta Chavarri. Señor Cortina is perhaps better known for his now shattered marriage to Alicia Koplowitz, one of the richest women in Europe.

arrangements to keep his hobby a state secret. Reportedly, he is a helicopter-borne stalker who never hunts with friends. Accompanied only by one bodyguard and a guide, Señor González apparently shoots like a political propagandist - with broadsides and scattershot. The magazine quoted a resident of the area as saying that one of the prime minister's recent trophies included a deer which was "pretty small".

People of the southern village of Cieza are dressed in mourning this week after a typically Spanish tragedy in which three young would-be toreros were gunned down by the light of the full moon. The killings, in a pasture where fighting bulls were grazing, remain a mystery, but a possible cause was mentioned in whispers at the village cemetery. The *novilleros* could have violated an ancient code. Ambitious *novilleros* have always been tempted to risk death by moonlight to practise their art in secret with full-grown fighting bulls, bred and pampered for the big-time maestros. The practice is strictly forbidden because, once a bull has been caped, it is considered too wise and dangerous for a bullfight.



Curfews as violence in townships escalates

FROM REUTER IN THOKOZA, SOUTH AFRICA

AT LEAST 64 people have been killed in a wave of knife and gun battles for political supremacy in South African black townships.

Police said yesterday that 52 bodies had been found in Thokozza, a township 15 miles east of Johannesburg.

"We found 14 bodies between last night and this morning. By the afternoon, 38 more bodies had been picked up, making it 52 in Thokozza alone," a police spokesman, Ida van Zweel, said yesterday. Eight other bodies were found in Tembisa and four in Katlehong townships, also east of Johannesburg, since the fighting started on Sunday afternoon. The law and order minister, Adriaan Vlok, imposed a curfew yesterday on Katlehong, Thokozza, Vosloorus and Bekkersdal townships.

"There is no place in South Africa for violence or inflammatory talk. Violence can only retard the evolution of the new South Africa for which all peace-loving citizens are striving," Mr Vlok said. Military reinforcements were being called in to help the police to restore order, he said. "Now is the time for all parties involved to sit down and talk their differences and to prevent further loss of life during the approaching festive season."

All but one of the dead were blacks who had been shot and stabbed. A white security guard was shot, stabbed and set on fire in Katlehong.

In one incident a reporter witnessed a man being attacked with cane-cutting knives before being finished off with an automatic rifle by a group of assailants. Scores of other bodies lay scattered in Ntala street, one of the township's main streets. Three bodies, one decapitated, lay on the street leading to Thokozza's Phola Park squatter camp.

At the corner of one of the streets young and middle-aged men were making petrol bombs. "We are going to burn down the hostel (for migrant workers). It is the breeding ground for this slaughter," one of the youths said.

Thokozza residents sought refuge at the local hospital where more than 65 people had been admitted with gun and knife wounds. Others have fled to nearby open ground to escape fighting.

"We have nowhere to go. Although it is raining, it is better to be in an open field so as to see the approaching attackers," one resident said.

More than 900 people have been killed in political factional fighting which has slowed negotiations on political reform between the white government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The fighting has been mainly between township residents loyal to the ANC and migrant workers from Natal province sympathetic to the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mr Mandela's main political rival.

Thokozza, Katlehong and



Township tragedy: a woman in Thokozza weeping yesterday as police handled the body of a man on to their armoured vehicle after overnight violence between rival blacks

Bush will keep to Argentina visit

From REUTER IN BRASILIA

PRESIDENT Bush, at the start of a week's goodwill visit to Latin America, yesterday called on all Western hemisphere nations to work together for democracy and prosperity.

"To fulfill the new world's destiny, all of the Americas and the Caribbean must embark on a venture for the coming century - to create the first fully democratic hemisphere in the history of mankind, the first hemisphere devoted to the democratic ideal, to unleash the power of free peoples, free elections and free markets," he said.

With Mr Bush was his daughter, Dorothy LeBlond, who agreed to depose for her mother after the First Lady was laid low by a minor sinus infection. The president was also accompanied by a group of economic advisers, including Nicholas Brady, his treasury secretary, and Carla Hills, the US trade representative.

Economically, Brazil is the most important country on the 12,000-mile tour, which is also to include Uruguay, Chile and Venezuela. Brazil has the tenth biggest economy in the world and is America's third largest trading partner in the Americas, after Canada and Mexico.

Brazilian officials see the American leader's visit as a chance to try to enlist his help in dealing with the country's crushing foreign debt, which totals \$119 billion (\$51 billion). Mr Bush, in turn, hopes that the visit will show the region that he is not subordinating his concerns to the Gulf confrontation and the sweeping changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Collor de Mello: leader of state with huge debts



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LET IT THROUGH
THE TIMES

Source: NRS Oct 1989 - Sept 1990

Delhi acts with speed to curb growing unrest

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

IN THREE weeks of power, India's minority government has put the strategic oil-rich state of Assam under direct rule, arrested six top Sikh leaders in Punjab, and secretly assembled plans for a political initiative in Kashmir. This week it is seeking a peace deal with Hindu extremists.

The government is moving with almost frantic speed to tackle terrorism and the breakdown of law and order caused by caste and religious disputes. Its plans include tougher security in Punjab, possibly involving a deployment of troops to fight terrorism, killing an unprecedented 20 to 30 people a day.

A significant peace bid in Kashmir is also being considered. The government is prepared to release prominent leaders held under national security laws and may hold out the prospect of substantial self-government.

Farooq Abdullah, the discredited former chief minister of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and head of the National Conference, is closely involved in an examination of political options, much to the dismay of many Kashmiris. His administration, widely regarded as corrupt, saw the first eruption of widespread armed revolts

among the traditionally docile Kashmiris. Mr Abdullah has been consulting Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, over possible political moves in the state.

Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, and Muam Nawaz Sharif, his new Pakistani counterpart, agreed when they met for the first time at a regional summit in the Maldives last month to stay in frequent telephone contact to avoid war over Kashmir.

With war no longer likely, Delhi is ready to open peace talks with Kashmiri leaders.

There are also cautious hopes of a solution to a Hindu-Muslim dispute over a holy site in the Uttar Pradesh city of Ayodhya. The Hindu extremists who brought down the previous government are again planning to storm the Babri Masjid, a 16th-century mosque, on Thursday.

The Chandra Shekhar government hopes to avoid another bloody conflict in Ayodhya and Mr Gandhi, whose party is propping up Mr Chandra Shekhar's Janata Dal (S) grouping in parliament, has proposed a formula in which Hindus would be able to build a temple next to the mosque. Mr Gandhi believes his plan would satisfy most Hindus and Muslims.

French see rebel leader in Chad

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON
IN PARIS

AS CALM returned to the streets of N'Djamena yesterday, the youthful commander of the rebel troops that swept into the Chad capital last weekend was savouring his victory.

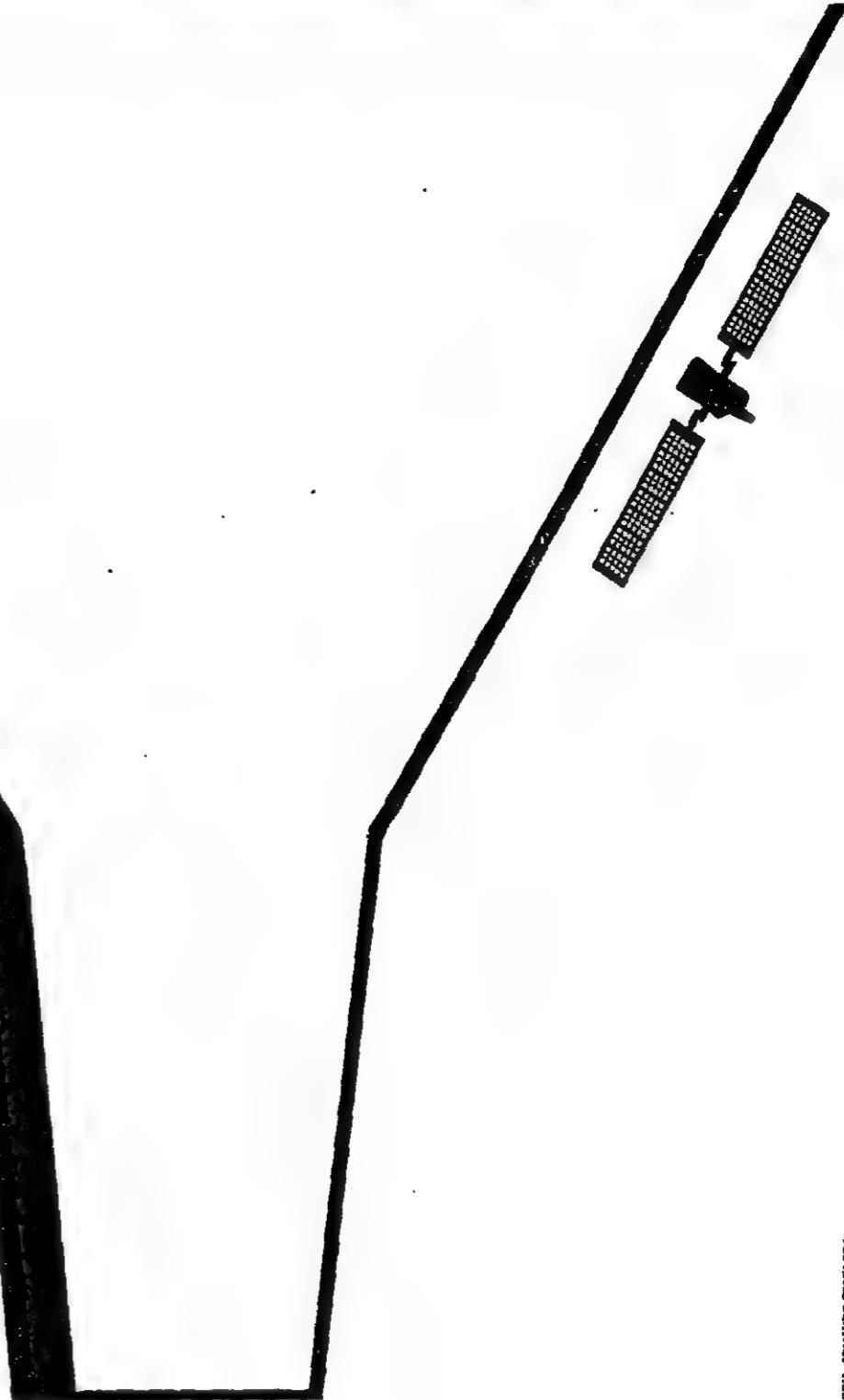
Idriss Deby has already received the French ambassador and a special government envoy despatched from Paris to assess the new situation.

The French have said there is no evidence of direct Libyan involvement. But Mr Deby seems to have rejected the French view of what should happen now - a period of transition under the interim leadership of the Chad parliament. "We fought against the existing political system and its institutions," he told journalists. "The old guard cannot be involved in what happens now."

It has been confirmed that Chad's former president, Hissene Habre, previously reported dead, is safe in neighbouring Cameroon.

• Flying out: The French foreign ministry said yesterday that another evacuation flight was to take about a hundred more of its citizens out of Chad. Some 1,600 people have already left.

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Woodrow Wyatt

A foul deed they will rue

Some see the destruction of Mrs Thatcher by her own party in mystical terms, like a passage from Sir James Frazer's *The Golden Bough*. According to this version, Tory MPs did not know individually what they were doing, but were compelled by a Jungian "collective unconscious" to do the dreadful deed out of a primeval instinct of self-preservation. Having slaughtered their queen they then chose her favourite son as chieftain, and not the matricide who had conspired with older, jealous members of the tribe to plant the first dagger.

If that is so, and it may be, it is not the first time in history that a "collective unconscious" has made an appalling mistake, to be deeply regretted by the zombies acting under its spell when they wake to reality.

Tory MPs, and the cabinet, were dupes of a largely anti-Thatcher press, which blazed the recent opinion poll findings, and particularly of the BBC and ITV, where the prevailing ethos has long been against her. Mr Peter Kellner, a Labour supporter, wrote in *The Independent* last Friday: "the use of polls in Mrs Thatcher's downfall should cause some concern. Time may show that Tory MPs misread the evidence and that, far from sacking a vote-loser, they have abandoned a vote-winner".

That is undoubtedly true. Mrs Thatcher scored her three great victories coming from far behind in the polls and finishing well ahead of her party in popularity, and high above all comers in the polling booths. An ascending curve had already started, and the same would have happened in the next election, when she would have faced a weak Mr Kinnock and an unconvincing Labour party. Now the outlook for the Tories is less bright.

Mr Major has admirable and attractive qualities, with the making of a fine prime minister. But, as Mr Kellner remarks, the Tories will possibly do worse at the next election "because Mrs Thatcher has proven campaign skills that Mr Major has yet to demonstrate". So far, the shock of Mrs Thatcher's shabby deposition has not fully percolated into voters' minds. When it does, there could be a strong backlash against the party responsible for removing the most innovative and successful prime minister since 1832 while in full vigour.

Mrs Thatcher restored national pride by raising Britain's purchasing power, in world councils, considerably above its economic weight. Travellers abroad accustomed to a growing contempt for Britain found themselves envied for having so towering a leader. Nowhere was this more true than in America. There the pervading mood not only grew more appreciative of Britain as America's most reliable ally but depended on Mrs Thatcher to stiffen presidents

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Excellent, the latest *VAT Notes*. A thundering good read from start to finish, and as spiritually uplifting as anything you could shake a censor at. Those stymied for an original Yuletide gift for literary relatives would do well to consider Leaflet No. 809696 Dds 237248 VA/DA/70/90: not only is it a handy one-thousandth the length of Ackroyd's *Dickens*, its firm corners make it ideal for removing any shards of turkey still madly lurking between the Boxing Day molars. And best of all, it's free — provided that you have kept up your subscription to the Customs & Excise Book Club by sending them 15% of your income every quarter.

I have had the good fortune to be a member since 1973, and have therefore received hundreds of these exegesis supplements to *The Book of VAT*. I have not, of course, been permitted to see the Book itself, for it is kept, thrice locked and acolyte-girt, in that remote forest clearing to which Brigham Excise and his followers carried it after the death of Joseph Customs (*Postscriptum* of the Church of Latter-Day Taxmen), but I have been able to glean some notion of the holy text from these regular amendments. That it must be comprehensive of all that ever was since the beginning of the world is irrefutable; if the torrent of regulatory addenda can take account of such diverse minutiae as the importation of non-ferrous prostheses for ornamental (excluding clockwork) wallabies, and the exact status of purgative gherkins for ritual gatherings at which not fewer than nine of those present are full-time members of the armed forces, then it is obvious that the Book itself misses nothing. Its eye is on 115% of the sparrow.

Are the leaflets useful? It is a question as irrelevant as it is improper. They are no more or less useful than the Book of Revelations. They are not there to be useful, but to awe and mystify. They are put together by theologians concerned not merely with the number of angels able to dance on the head of a pin, but with whether the dance may be construed as educational within the meaning

of votes and eventually, voted for Boris Yeltsin as president. Now it is weighed approximately 60/40 against the radicals.

Mr Gorbachev is a politician of the centre, a seeker after compromise. He does not spend hours of his precious time watching the proceedings of the Soviet parliament simply to make timely interventions. In recent weeks he has spent four full days there — plus visits to the Russian parliament and a Moscow Communist party meeting — listening, gauging the mood. He appears to have concluded what others have done: the mood has shifted significantly to what in Soviet political geography is called the right.

After a troubled summer and with a hungry winter ahead, Soviet opinion wants the restoration of discipline more than it wants additional freedom and democracy. The shift is nowhere more striking than at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. In May

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow sees the hardline star in the ascendant, but cautions against writing off reforms

it was balanced within a handful of votes and eventually, voted for Boris Yeltsin as president. Now it is weighed approximately 60/40 against the radicals.

The interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, was the first significant victim of this change, and there will be others. Mr Bakatin, as the minister responsible for law and order, was particularly exposed. His reputation as a liberal allowed people to see him as soft on crime and on nationalist separation. He was also blamed for the failure to implement the presidential decree on disarming and outlawing unauthorized armed groups. Given the virtual guerrilla war being waged in parts of the Transcaucasus, it could not be implemented, but Mr Bakatin is widely held to be guilty of neglect.

In recent weeks, Bakatin gained notoriety for suggesting that the interior ministry troops, which have been deployed in many ethnic disputes, might become the responsibility of the individual Soviet republics. In devolutionist

eyes, the proposal had the merit of giving the republics responsibility to keep their own houses in order. For the central ministry, the proposal also had the merit of removing from its supervision an unpopular area of activity.

But the idea did not find favour with the predominantly conservative Soyuz (union) group of parliamentarians, who also blame Mr Bakatin for the appearance of Kalsashnikov rifles in the hands of self-appointed customs officials in the Baltic states and for the centre's refusal, or inability, to halt the dismissal of ethnic Russian police chiefs in non-Russian areas. Mr Bakatin was the easiest of targets, his slightly rumpled intellectual appearance and easy manner making him all the more unpopular in those circles where discipline and formality are prized.

To see Mr Bakatin's removal exclusively as a blow to reform would, however, be premature. If anything has been clear since Mr Gorbachev promised a far-reaching reshuffle two weeks ago, it is

the fierceness of the battle being waged behind the scenes. Mr Gorbachev, moreover, is one of the shrewdest and wildest politicians in the business. Rather than surrender to pressure from conservatives, he may envisage a little horse-trading: a toughened interior ministry team, perhaps, in return for some more reformists on the economic side; the removal of Mr Bakatin, perhaps, in return for acquiescence in the appointment of Edward Shevardnadze, the liberal-minded foreign minister, as his deputy president.

Until the reshuffle is complete, its meaning cannot be discerned. But nor can the precise political significance of the moves at the interior ministry. Certainly, if, however, his is an additional post, with special responsibility for combating crime, he has exchanged a promising military power base for one of the most difficult portfolios in the government — and Mr Gorbachev has neutralised another possible threat to his rule.

General Gromov's appointment is also as yet uncertain. He brings a strong personality, political ambition, a measure of popularity and an army uniform to the interior ministry. Whether he has been promoted or demoted, however, depends on what he is given to do. If he replaces Yuri Shatalin as commander of the interior ministry troops, his star has risen. If, however, his is an additional post, with special responsibility for combating crime, he has exchanged a promising military power base for one of the most difficult portfolios in the government — and Mr Gorbachev has neutralised another possible threat to his rule.

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Again, the appointments of Boris Pugo, hitherto chairman of the Communist party's disciplinary body, the control commission, and General Boris Gromov, com-

Democracy defers to discipline

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow sees the hardline star in the ascendant, but cautions against writing off reforms

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Have the greens blossomed only to fade and wither?

The outcome of the German election is a warning to environmentalists everywhere to avoid cliquishness and squabbling, writes Daniel Johnson

After a decade as the biggest and certainly the most self-important political party in the European Green movement, nemesis has finally overtaken the German Greens. In the first federal election of the reunified German state on Sunday, the swashbuckling, hairy, dungaree-sporting, tieless and infuriatingly self-righteous *Grünen* failed to reach the 5 per cent threshold below which German parties languish in obscurity.

Only in the polluted wilderness of the new eastern provinces did ecology, civil rights, disarmament and other typically green issues still seem to voters to be matters of pressing concern. Yet even there, the Christians, pacifists and ecologists who played such an honourable part in the overthrow of the Honecker regime and gained a modest seven seats on Sunday were not members of *die Grünen* (they campaigned as "Alliance 90"). They had merely agreed an electoral pact with the older West German party, and did not share its downfall.

Does the defeat of the German Greens signal the end, not merely of a very German dream of an unpolitical utopia, but also of the European movement of which *die Grünen* were, in the words of Tom Burke, director of the Green Alliance in Britain, "the anchor"?

Will Green politics survive the 1990s, as recession and refugees, the end of the cold war and revived nationalism apparently do? The past is in this case a poor guide to the future, since the German Greens emerged at a specific moment in German history. At its inception in 1979, the new party was given a symbolic

blessing at a mass meeting in West Berlin by Rudi Dutschke, hero of the student radicals of the 1960s.

The atmosphere was apocalyptic, and Dutschke was soon to die from the bullet which an assassin's gun had lodged in his brain years before. Ecology was only the lower common denominator.

Frustration with the limitations of a social democratic government and fear of a Nazi revival if the Christian Democratic right ever returned to power combined with West Germany's parliamentary system, "Americanised" culture and commitment to Nato.

As the Schmidt government disintegrated in 1982-83, the Greens capitalised on the campaign against the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles.

Petra Kelly became a heroine of the left all over Europe. Her party leapt the 5 per cent hurdle in the 1983 election, and in 1987 (still profiting from weak leadership in the SPD) reached a peak of 43 seats. In the state governments of Hesse and West Berlin, the party formed coalitions with the Social Democrats, and there was much talk of a

"Red-Green" government at national level. But when they were offered a research foundation on the model of those run by the three established parties, the Greens typically failed to agree on whether to accept it.

Decline had set in long before reunification dished the Greens once and for all. Though a few members of the party's moderate "Real" wing (such as Joschka Fischer and Otto Schily) became respected politicians, the maximalist "Fund" wing always managed to spike their guns. Led by a feminist aristocrat, Jutta (von) Ditzfuth, the Fundis drove people like Schily to leave.

Having proclaimed themselves the representatives of future generations, the German Greens never consolidated their appeal for the youth of the present. They passed into history, their collective leadership squabbling amongst themselves to the last.

How relevant is this experience likely to be to countries like Britain, where the Green party came to prominence only a decade after its German counterpart, at last year's European elections?

Like the socialist and communist internationals of the past, the Greens have a powerful drive to transcend national boundaries. The ecological problems they address are rarely limited to single countries, and one of the lasting legacies of the German Greens will be the elevation of environmental activism to the notice of European Community institutions.

No EC member state is now able to persist in environmental policies much out of step with its neighbours. Thanks to the initial impetus provided by the electoral success of an environmental party in a country as important as Germany, which focused diffuse public concern across the continent, bureaucratic mechanisms came into existence which gave momentum to the "greening" of industry and government.

But the practical effect of such internationalism has been limited by the amateurishness and cliquishness of many Green politicians. Lacking the collective discipline and solidarity of which both communists and fascists were sometimes capable, the European Green parties have

never aroused the transcontinental emotional sympathy which is achieved by non-party organisations such as Greenpeace.

Tom Burke rejects the vulgar Marxist theory that politics and ideology are mere functions of the economic cycle, so he disputes the view that the end of the boom of the late 1980s spells doom for environmentalism. He believes that the Green parties have only ever been the impermanent and symbolic "surface layer" of a far more enduring shift in public mentality. "Green parties have always been more religious than political," he argues.

Mr Burke claims that, although there is a connection between affluence and interest in the environment, such concern may be non-political. He points out that membership of non-political environmental groups in Britain (some 5 million) is much larger than the maximum "Green vote" yet achieved here (2.3 million).

The next phase of European history could see a potentially dangerous appropriation of the anti-modern, utopian aspects of Green ideology by spokesmen of the new urban underclasses, which may be reinforced by mass immigration from the east. Yet in Germany itself, which is both the most Green and the most exposed to the economic and social disruption flowing from the east, the danger of Green totalitarianism now seems remote.

National Socialism likewise embraced a wide spectrum of anti-Western and anti-capitalist thought that was not specifically Hitlerian (think of Martin Heidegger), but that trauma may well have inoculated the country against messianic movements of all kinds. The aftermath of communism hardly seems a propitious time for new prophets to arise, even if there is a slump.

Yet green politics undoubtedly has an inherent tendency towards extremes: the absolute right of the individual to enjoy purity in everything, and to reject the modern world when it is impure.

The German Greens will be seen by historians as the catalysts of a necessary change in European consciousness, but the absorption of the bulk of their following into the more conventional party system will be unlamented.

The explanation cuts little ice with the equal rights lobby, which considers that Mrs Robinson — and, by implication, all Irish women — have been slighted. With Mrs Robinson's support, Monica Barnes of the Dail women's affairs committee, has written to every golf club in Ireland demanding equal membership rights. Portmarnock, meanwhile, says the new president is welcome to a round whenever she wants, but only as a guest.

Record tribute

London managed to pay a 90th birthday tribute to Aaron Copland shortly before his death only because of the last-minute intervention of *The Times* Diary. With no sponsor in sight, the City of London Chamber Orchestra was on the brink of cancelling a series of concerts in his honour planned for St John's, Smith Square, in September. The orchestra contacted *The Times*, and a short piece here produced the desired result: a £7,500 donation from an anonymous New York law firm.

The orchestra invited Copland to the concert but his failing health kept him at home in New York. Instead, tapes were sent to him which, the orchestra hopes, offered him moments of pleasure in the weeks before he died.

The family has taken a long time to agree to an authorised biography. After Lord Olivier died 18 months ago a number of writers sought permission to start work on a book, but all were rebuffed. No one had yet been chosen, but competition is bound to be intense.

Meanwhile Richard, who is 29, insists that family tensions have been remarkably absent from rehearsals for tomorrow night's opening in what he says was always his father's favourite theatre. "We have a wonderful shorthand and can be honest and frank with each other," he says. "As for my mother, she has been pleasantly surprised. She does exactly what she's told."

Evil umpire?

During his visit to Britain starting today, Ronald Reagan will be disappointed not to take tea, as planned, with Mrs Thatcher at Number Ten. Nor will he brave the south London traffic to visit her at Dulwich. Instead, on Thursday, Mrs Thatcher will call on Reagan at his suite at Claridges to discuss the good old days.

His disappointment may at least be offset by the unusual

honour, for an American, of being invited to join the all-male Saints and Sinners club, made up of the élite of the Lord's Taverners.

Membership is restricted to exactly 100. There is currently one vacancy, which the club is expected to offer Reagan when he addresses it at a Savoy dinner on Friday.

Members are evenly divided between 50 saints and 50 sinners. So which is Reagan? As far as the Lord's Taverners are concerned, anyone who believes a bowler is a pitcher and thinks that cover point is more properly called first base can surely only be a sinner.

Members are evenly divided between 50 saints and 50 sinners. So which is Reagan? As far as the Lord's Taverners are concerned, anyone who believes a bowler is a pitcher and thinks that cover point is more properly called first base can surely only be a sinner.

Biggest handicap

Irish women's rights campaigners, delighted by the inauguration of Mary Robinson as the country's first woman president, are less pleased that she has been denied a privilege granted her predecessor, Dr Paddy Hillery.

When first elected in 19



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ELECTING CITY MAYORS

The reform of the constitutional landscape of England and Wales is back on the agenda, forced there by the fiasco of the poll tax. Attention is once again focused on the government of the cities. Michael Heseltine, is pondering the restoration of county borough status to large towns and cities. He and a number of ministers are also in favour of elected mayors, to reduce party domination of local councils, increase public participation in elections and raise the profile of local government generally. Turnouts in those democracies, such as France and the United States, which have elected mayors, are roughly double those in most British cities.

Ever since the great municipal innovations of the 19th century, the reform of local government has been bedevilled by party politics. The sequence of research, enquiry and shambolic decision initiated by the Redcliffe-Maud commission in 1969 led four years later to the submerging of supposedly left-wing cities in their surrounding, supposedly Tory, county areas. The new "metropolitan counties" created round Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham and others were abolished in 1986. But other caskets remained in the nest, including the unloved pseudo-counties such as Avon and Humberside and county "districts" the size of Cardiff and Portsmouth.

Until recently, Tory radicals were plotting the dismantling of the entire county structure and devolving all sub-Whitehall government to the 369 district councils. So drastic a break with historical loyalties would have been even more unpopular than Peter Walker's 1970s reforms. Sanity may have returned with Mr Heseltine's arrival at the environment department. There is no point in uniting local government which does not correspond to the local electorate's sense of geographical identity. Big or small, cities are cities and counties are counties, and if diverse sizes mean a diversity of service quality, so be it. The biggest cities were given back full county borough powers in 1986 and the case is now strong for doing the same to towns above, say, 200,000 population. If that means the end of Avon and Humberside – and even the return of Rutland

and the East Riding – so much the better. Reform, however, cannot rest there. The reason for the partial collapse of urban government in the 1970s was the seizure of its out-dated constitutional structure by corrupt political groups, some in the pocket of property developers, some in that of public sector unions. If cities are to get back full responsibility for planning, education and transport, two conditions must be satisfied.

The first is that a system of local finance must be in place that clearly relates spending to local taxation, perhaps as Ralf Dahrendorf suggests in a letter on this page, with some discretion as to how. The successor to the poll tax, which should be based on property value and should embrace businesses, must be seen to be levied on all householders, tenants as well as owner occupiers and landlords. Councils should be compelled to publicise their annual rate increase or decrease, and specific capital projects should be subject to local referendum, as in America.

The second condition is that the hold of political parties over local council membership should be weakened. Elected mayors would not end such a hold, but would personalise elections, increase public awareness and offer a chance to outsiders to enter the field. Such outsiders might not win, but might sufficiently jolt the existing parties to reduce their tendency to cronyism and extremism.

The mechanism by which mayors would exert authority would need, and should get, further study. They might operate outside the existing structure of executive council committees, being largely ceremonial but with small budgets. Or they could enjoy full tax-raising and executive functions, with council committees having only advisory status. Given the restricted discretion left to local councils nowadays, there seems little reason not to go the latter route, to plenipotentiary mayors subject only to the need to get the annual rate through their councils.

Either way, the demoralised legions of local government throughout the United Kingdom are urgently in need of a vote of confidence from central government. Mr Heseltine's ideas merit wide discussion followed by swift action.

FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

Trade ministers from 107 countries have until Friday to save the world's trading system from disintegration. Yesterday they began the final session of the Uruguay round of trade talks with protectionist farmers baying at the doors. So likely is collapse that Brussels' talk is of stopping the clocks until after the new year. Such diplomatic legerdemain would be downright irresponsible. Agreement is urgent.

The United States appears to be heading for a recession. Economic stagnation, there and elsewhere, will increase protectionist pressures. Yet a deal would provide a trade stimulus to the world economy. Carla Hills, the US trade representative, calculates that agreement could add \$4,000 billion to global output over the next ten years.

The world is accustomed to trade talks which drag on, to false ultimatums and artificial deadlines. This time, however, delay really could mean disaster. The negotiations are so complex that without political decisions to remove the main obstacles to agreement this week there will simply not be time to produce final texts by March 1. On that date, the "fast track" authority granted to the American government by the US Congress, which commits congress to accept or reject the deal without amendment, expires. There is no prospect that it will be renewed.

Instead of criticising American legislators for holding the world to ransom, free traders should bless them. The authority of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is threatened by the proliferation of non-tariff barriers such as "voluntary" export restraint agreements, the growth of regional trading blocs and bilateral deals. Moreover, GATT rules exclude whole sectors, such as agriculture and services. Agreement would remedy that, equipping GATT for the modern world.

The traditional free-traders, the United States and Western Europe, are to blame for today's deadlock. They are quarrelling over two key sectors, trade in agriculture and in services. As a result, the industrialised nations are wincing on their pledge, at the Houston summit last year, to make the Uruguay round "the highest priority on the international

HOLY SMOKE

Edward VI ordered Holy Island to be fortified against marauding Scots, hence its romantic 16th-century castle. Stone walls, unfortunately, are not strong enough to keep out marauding English bodies. Holy Island, otherwise known as Lindisfarne, may be about to lose its volunteer fire brigade because the county council says so. But not if human nature has its way.

At high tide the island's mile-long causeway is covered by the sea. The county council has apparently not considered a regulation forbidding the tide to come in, but its alternatives defies common sense hardly less. When the causeway is under water, professional firemen will be flown in by RAF or some other helicopter; at low tide they will drive the 15 miles from Berwick, the nearest Northumbrian town. No doubt they will arrive breathlessly trailing streamers of red tape.

Holy Island's eight amateur fire fighters have their own fire engine and have put out 11 fires in the last five years. Such are the penalties for trying to be helpful, they have been told to disband because they are not trained to the standards required by the new Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. The county council's decision is as silly as forbidding first-aiders to attend sprained ankles because they lack degrees in brain surgery.

Presumably anyone who so much as reaches for a bucket of water to douse a smouldering ash bin will be hauled off to Berwick's

economic agenda. The European Community has pooled its sovereignty in these talks, agreeing to let the European Commission negotiate on behalf of the Twelve – with disastrous results so far. The commission's hands have been tied by French and German refusal to accept radical cuts in farm subsidies for fear of dismantling the Common Agricultural Policy. The EC offers absurdly short of other countries' demands. The EC argues that the principle is what really matters, and that it has taken a revolutionary step by agreeing to subject the market-rigging games of the CAP to international scrutiny. But principles butter no parsnips. On any assessment, the size of the EC's offer is not enough.

Unless it does better, the round will collapse. The responsibility for breaking this deadlock lies with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. His determination to keep the farm vote in Sunday's elections lay behind the Franco-German axis blocking a realistic deal.

But the Americans could set a virtuous circle going by making concessions of their own. The American commitment to free trade has been suspect since Congress added "crown" clauses to American trade legislation in 1988. Under these, the US may impose sanctions against governments which it labels "protectionist". Its attitude to the Uruguay round, constructive in agriculture, has moreover been much less so when it comes to services. Here, America has kowtowed to its civil aviation, shipping and telecommunications lobbies.

Washington now says that in these sectors, it will not accept the GATT obligation not to discriminate between trading partners.

Once a deal had been done on these two issues, overall agreement would not be far away. With the trade ministers bogged down, heads of government must step in. And here, Britain's "mid-Atlantic" stance, often criticised within the EC, places it in a powerful position to press for a creative compromise. John Major should grab this heaven-sent opportunity to establish himself on the international stage.

Lindisfarne, with its famous ruined priory, known about monks and monasteries, having been home for many a saint and hermit. Its people need to remember the story of the monk who liked his pipe. He asked his prior if it was acceptable for him to smoke while he said his prayers. The prior was appalled at his irreverence. The holy man prayed for inspiration, and the answer came. He duly went to the abbot and asked: was he allowed to say a prayer while he smoked? The abbot congratulated him on his piety.

If all else fails, let Northumberland county council make such arrangements as it thinks fit. Let the local firemen stand down, and the helicopters take over. Then after a decent interval – and perhaps a few incinerated residences – a local worthy might step forward with a novel suggestion. Why not let the island people organise a "voluntary fire-fighting" service to tackle such fires as are within their capacity? What an obvious idea, the county councillors will say, what an admirable public spirit! What a saving to the rates (which will be back by then). The people of Lindisfarne can catch each other's eye, and wink.

Presumably anyone who so much as reaches for a bucket of water to douse a smouldering ash bin will be hauled off to Berwick's

ancient prison. Local pride being what it is, the island people are fighting to save their fire brigade. Their main hope is that enough volunteers can be found to undergo the extra training necessary to satisfy the regulations. This submission to the letter of the law does them credit. But if these tactics fail there is still an alternative.

Lindisfarne, with its famous ruined priory, known about monks and monasteries, having been home for many a saint and hermit. Its people need to remember the story of the monk who liked his pipe. He asked his prior if it was acceptable for him to smoke while he said his prayers. The prior was appalled at his irreverence. The holy man prayed for inspiration, and the answer came. He duly went to the abbot and asked: was he allowed to say a prayer while he smoked? The abbot congratulated him on his piety.

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FRESH THOUGHTS ON THE POLL TAX

From the Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford

Sir, In his useful survey of "poll tax solutions" (report, December 1), Mr Tony Travers lists seven possibilities but leaves out one option which seems the most obvious to anyone who knows what happens elsewhere in the world: why does central government have to determine how local government raises its revenues?

Would it not be more appropriate to leave it to local authorities to determine the desirable and acceptable mix of community charges with property taxes and other sources? Moreover, would not such power in the hands of local authorities help devolve power ("subsidiarity") while increasing genuine accountability?

Might it not even lead, after unavoidable initial blips, to a "market" answer to the vexing question of local government finance in that authorities would discover by (perhaps painful) experience the most plausible revenue mix?

Yours sincerely,
RALF DAHRENDORF,
St Antony's College,
Oxford.

December 1.

From Mr D. R. Heginbotham

Sir, I suspect that this administration will deal with collecting the community charge against the determined opposition of non-payers not only by extending the categories of those persons exempt from the tax (excluding, for example, student nurses) but also by "forgiving" the liability of those hard-nosed individuals who have failed to pay up this year. The result will be a higher level of charge for those of us who have readily paid, to make up this year's lost revenue.

There are precedents for this kind of generous treatment for non-payers already set by the post-1979 Conservative administration. Thus, for example, in 1982 the Inland Revenue, at the government's behest, "forgave" millions of pounds of unpaid income tax due from print-industry casual workers provided they agreed to pay tax in the future.

Probably the worst fraud of all committed by the Conservative government was the virtual "giving" of council-owned housing to their sitting tenants – housing which had been largely paid for by those of us who, by careful saving and budgeting, had bought our own housing and had for years been mulcted in exorbitant domestic rates.

We thought we were paying towards the housing stock for the benefit of the less well-off of future generations, not to provide tax-free capital gains for the profligate. Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
4 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

November 28.

From Mr Douglas J. McBean

Sir, I was one of those who campaigned in local government elections last May, arguing passionately in favour of the community charge, in which I firmly believe.

The community charge is not

what is at issue here – it is surely

fair that everyone who utilises the services provided by local government should contribute toward the cost. No, what is at issue is the effectiveness and productivity of local government.

The government has for 1991-2

generously increased local councils' standard spending assessments. Local councillors should take great care to ensure that within these spending targets they provide a cost-effective service. If not, Mr Heseltine should tackle that problem, not the community charge itself.

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS J. MCBEAN,

24 Pamplin Close,

Colchester, Essex.

November 29.

From Mr Sidney Z. Manches

Sir, The main objection to returning to the old rating system, but based on the market value of properties instead of their hypothetical rental value, is the huge task of valuing millions of properties the many years it would take, and how to phase it in to the

market.

Yours faithfully,

SIDNEY Z. MANCHES,

63 North Gate,

Prince Albert Road, NW8.

November 28.

Flight security

From Professor J. F. D. Greenhalgh

Sir, Dr J. A. Jarvis's experience (November 29) of Air France flying baggage without its owner is somewhat similar to my own. I arrived in Paris from Nigeria on July 5 to be met by the chaos induced by the French air traffic controllers' strike. My baggage was put on an Air France flight to London, but when I attempted to check in for the flight I was refused both a seat and the return of my luggage.

As I had no prospect of flying to

London that day I had to travel by train and hovercraft, eventually catching up with my baggage the following day.

Air France claim that "no risk of any kind was involved" as the baggage had passed a security check in Nigeria and was in transit. Recent events suggest that baggage handled in this way and flying unaccompanied may not be safe.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. D. GREENHALGH,

University of Aberdeen,

School of Agriculture,

Aberdeen 9.

Driving alone

From Mr Ian MacKenzie

Sir, For £215 a woman driving alone (or with children) could install a car telephone with which to summon help in the event of a breakdown.

A small price to pay for safety –

but she must then pay £300 a year to use it. The £25 monthly charge is, no doubt, largely due to the limit of wavelengths available for personal lines.

It is not time that a safety car

phone, operating on one single wavelength to the 999 operator, was introduced, thereby eliminating or, at least, greatly reducing the annual charge?

Yours faithfully,

IAN MACKENZIE,

Polhill, Harrietsham,

Nr Maidstone, Kent.

November 30.

Letters to the editor should carry a

daytime telephone number. They

may be sent to a fax number –

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make money while reducing

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUTTING A PRICE ON OPERA STARS

From Mr Michael D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, I hope that the Royal Opera House's figures in John Higgins's article (Saturday Review, November 17) on the costs of mounting the recent new production of *Attila the Hun* will help show that opera in a 2,000-seater house is not only labour-intensive but actually modestly cost-effective.

It is, however, amazing that an organisation which relies for its continued existence on a large, if insufficient and ungenerous, subsidy from taxpayers can steadfastly refuse to publish details of fees paid to the stars (singers, conductors, producers) who, in the case of *Attila*, account for 26 per cent of the budget but less than 3 per cent of the people involved.

The secret mystique which surrounds stars' fees serves only to feed already over-inflated egos and is inappropriate where public money is in public accountable ought to be involved. Most opera-goers would feel Pavarotti is worth many times his rumoured night fee of £10,000, but how many mediocre singers have their fees bolstered and protected by the fact that their public have no idea how much they earn?

These figures, drawn from the *Attila* article, show an interesting range of average individual earnings:

	A	B	C
Stars	2,578	25	3
Scenics/costumes	322	15	15</

Radical shirt-sleeve chic

Cufflinks have always offered designers a small-scale canvas.

Liz Smith selects a range

Cufflinks or jewelled cuff "buttons" have been in fashion ever since men stopped flourishing flounces of lace at the wrists that were held together with cuff "strings". In the 19th century, when plain double cuffs became too heavily starched to be closed with buttons, cufflinks were established as essentials in every gentleman's wardrobe.

The two linked discs soon became the canvas for all manner of decorative flourishes, from a simple button rimmed and centred with jewels, to custom-made cufflinks displaying portraits of pets in enamel, club colours, pheasants, or the biggest fish ever caught. Even miniatures of loved ones can be reproduced in enamel.

The smartest cufflinks are the simplest. At Tiffany a silver button with gold criss-cross stitching costs £90, but its best-selling style for more than 40 years remains a double button cufflink in 18ct gold, at £420. An even more extravagant present, packaged in the distinctive blue Tiffany box, would be 18ct gold button links with diamonds in the stitch holes (£1,105).

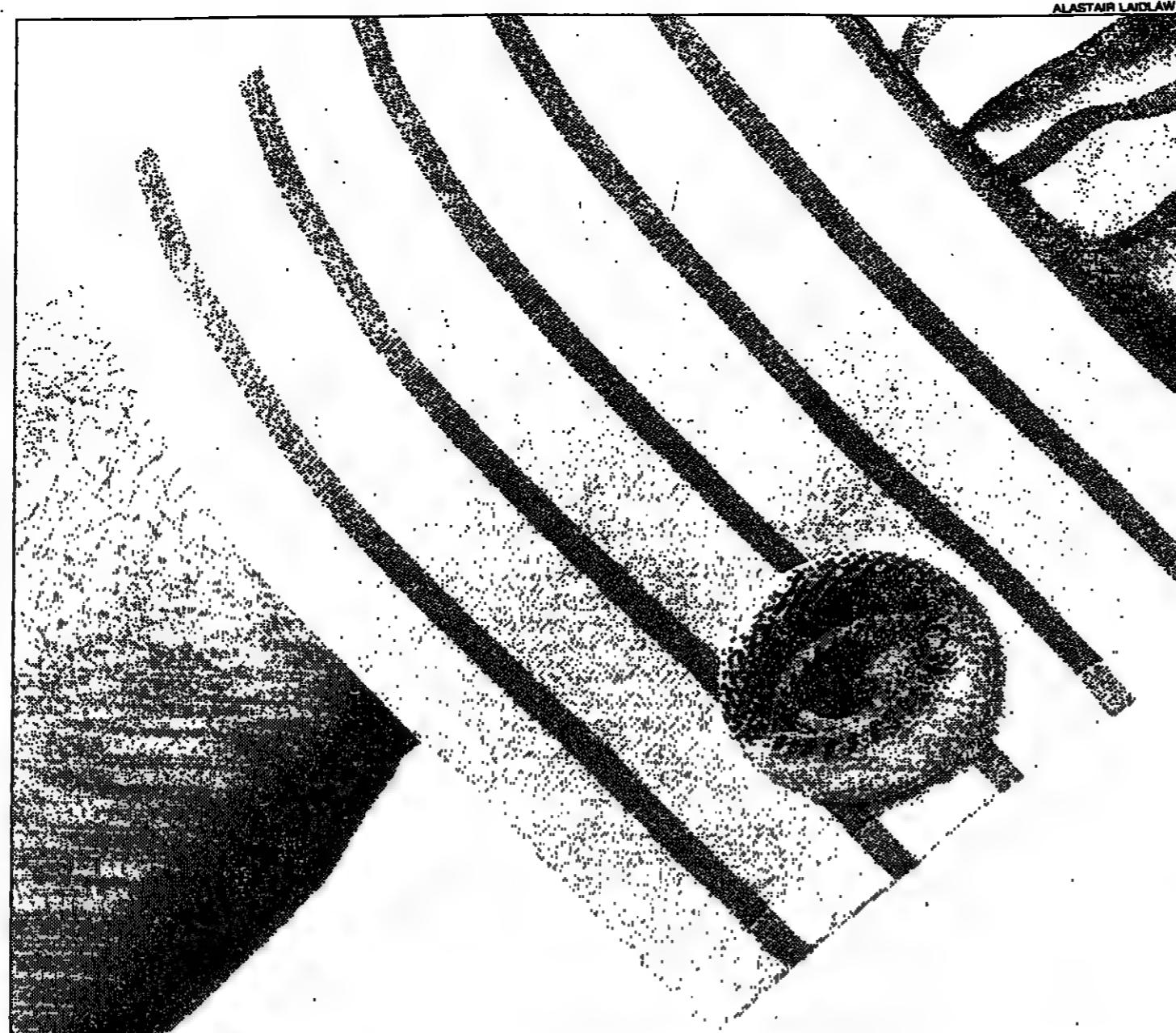
Cartier translates its popular Russian wedding ring design into

Even miniatures of loved ones can be reproduced in enamel

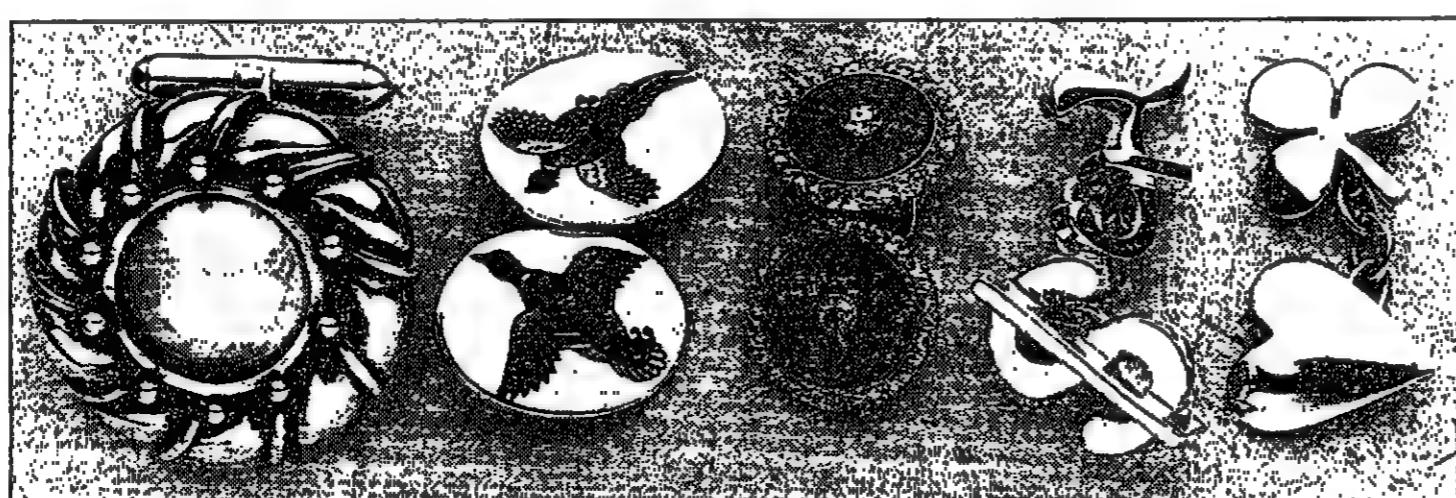
classic cufflinks that are twists of three colours of gold, costing £1,405. Typical Cartier cabochon-cut gemstones sunk into the City range of cufflinks include onyx, lapis, coral and malachite, priced from £950.

Hermès's 18ct gold Sellier button cufflinks, with Hermès engraved around the edge, cost £920. At Gucci, cufflinks in stirrup or GG designs start at £35 in metal, and at £140 in 18ct gold.

At Turnbull & Asser in Jermyn Street (where one cuff is made bigger on bespoke shirts, to take into account the wearer's wrist-watch) Kenneth Williams, the managing director, has watched customers switch from simple three-buttoned cuffs to double cuffs that demand links. He has transformed Turnbull & Asser shirt buttons into smart cufflinks, backed and criss-cross stitched in 18ct gold for £95 (£75 for silver). Smoked pearl button cufflinks are supplied for evening shirts, £195 for a set of cufflinks and three studs. Most of the shirts sold by Thomas Pink, the shirtmakers with shops in London, Bath and Edinburgh and with a large mail order clientele, are double-cuffed. Pink sells silver cufflinks in plain ovals, or adorned with a fox's head and tail, as well as the colourful knot knots that are hand-made in



How to clinch the deal on a nod and a wink: wear a pair of eye cufflinks by Paul Smith, price £39, seen here adorning a Thomas Pink cotton shirt



Think links: (from left) pearl and silver cufflinks, £360, Paul Smith; 9ct gold pheasant cufflinks, £650, Nigel Milne; Victorian diamond and blue enamel cufflinks, £5,200, Paul Longmire; sterling-dollar links in silver, £49.95, Charles Tyrwhitt; hearts and clubs in 9ct gold, £420, Garrard

Indonesia and costs just £5.

Hornsea (with branches around the country) sells cufflinks displaying Hot and Cold as on ceramic taps, price £45, and typewriter keys mounted on sterling silver. Herbert Johnson in Bond Street has a good selection of cufflinks, mixing fishing hats and rod, or jockey's crop and cap, as well as one that marries a miniature bowler hat with a rolled-up copy of *The Times* (£75).

The mecca for antique cufflinks in London is, appropriately, in the gentlemanly, clubby atmosphere of St James's, where Paul Longmire presides over a collection of 600 different cufflinks.

Holder of three royal warrants, he keeps his customers supplied with late 19th-century and early Edwardian cufflinks, and enjoys searching out pieces to satisfy the quirkiest demands. Prices start at about £1,000, although an antique mother-of-pearl button cufflink, knotted in gold, is priced at £860.

The Crafts Council shop at the Victoria & Albert Museum, always a good source of unconventional presents, has commissioned cufflinks from 19 designermakers for a special mini-exhibition called "Off the Cuff", with conventional and eccentric designs costing from £10 to £2,000.

Among the more notable pieces are cufflinks in brightly coloured enamel on silver by a Royal College of Art graduate, Zsuzsi Morrison, and geometrically-patterned PVC, laminate and rubber cufflinks by the Scottish designer, Anne Finlay. Peter Chang's vividly coloured, carved and inlaid acrylic cufflinks use an old Chinese lacquer technique. Some include tiny acrylic mirrors and gold leaf discs. Alistair McCallum, a silversmith, is showing cufflinks in a mixture of metals — silver with brass and copper, for example. His use of chemicals to patinate the metals results in quite dramatic colour contrasts.

More classical are Alison MacCullough's peach and black marble and silver pieces and Vicki Ambrey-Smith's architecturally-inspired, mixed metal cufflinks. Precious metal pieces include Gerda Flockinger's collectable work in silver and gold with pearls and stones.

• Paul Smith, Floral St, London WC2; Nigel Milne, 16c Grafton St, SW1; Paul Longmire, 12 Bury St, W1; Charles Tyrwhitt, 32 Faraday Rd, W10; Garrard, 112 Regent St, W1. Off the Cuff is at the Crafts Council Shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 (071-589 5070) until December 23, from 10am-5.30pm Monday-Saturday, 2.30-5.30pm Sunday.

All change for the big show

Television fashion goes live with a challenge from *The Times*

BIRMINGHAM establishes its place on the fashion map this week when BBC television's *The Clothes Show* moves into the National Exhibition Centre and becomes "live".

Since 1986, when the programme was first screened and

started to lower the rarefied tone that television had previously taken towards high fashion, the organisers have been pressed by viewers wanting to attend shows and events. As a result the *Clothes Show* team, headed by Jeff Banks and Selina Scott, went

"public" for the first time last year and 30,000 fashion enthusiasts crowded the exhibition halls at Olympia, west London.

Now the event, which is

sponsored by Lloyds Bank, is to be expanded into a five-day fashion bonanza, opening on Thursday.

On stand G113 in Hall 8, *The Times* is challenging fashion students taking the BA honours course at the Polytechnic of Central London to

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Preseater: Selina Scott

designs a different outfit each day based on pages from the Saturday Review section, printed on to wool challis.

Beauty experts will demonstrate their skills on volunteers, and the secrets of fashion photography will be revealed in improvised studios. Six catwalk shows will be staged each day and Mary Quant, Vivienne Westwood (the designer of the year), Edina Ronay, Antony Price and John Richmond head the list of guest designers.

L.S.

© The Clothes Show Live, NEC, Birmingham. December 6-10

Please telephone 071-235 1507 for the new catalogue.

Recalling the lights fantastic

Are the glittering Christmas illuminations of Regent Street fading into a dim memory?

A FAVOURITE refrain at this time of year is that the Regent Street lights "aren't what they used to be". In the Fifties and Sixties people went mad for the lights, if the newspapers of the time are to be believed. The display in 1959 made the centre spread of *Life* magazine; the *Evening Standard* devoted its first full-page, full-colour picture to the lights of 1961.

The hysteria probably peaked in 1960. Cartoonists of every important newspaper seemed to find a way of including the lights in a topical joke, while some writers even took the theme of internally-lit angels quite seriously. "They lean forward to sound their trumpets in glory," the *Yorkshire Post* reported. "They are unliturgical, but they are folklore angels, long-garmented, and as they are now they will be admired by many thousands." There were many pictures of the naive and un tutored gazing upwards with their mouths open. "Blimy, guv," a cabby was reported to have told the angels' designer, Beverley Pick.

Mr Pick was responsible for the design of 12 of Regent Street's Christmas lighting schemes, beginning with the first in 1954.

A year earlier he had designed the street's decorations for the Queen's coronation.

In 1954 there was simply a series of lanterns hanging from the shop fronts. "It didn't occur to anyone you could string a whole lot of clobber across the street," Mr Pick says. However, by the next year he was stringing clobber across the street in the form of snow crystals, glistening shapes suspended from wires and floodlit. By 1959, the familiar Pick trademark of independently-lit "features" suspended across the street and linked by loops of coloured lights had emerged. This was the year of his chandeliers. "That was my all-time favourite scheme," he says.

BY THE mid-Sixties the demands of the job — climbing up and down ladders, trying to apply stagecraft while standing out in the rain night after night — were too much for him. "I used to sit at home and pray that nothing fell on," he says. Mr Pick is now retired from a successful design career that earned him an OBE. Since 1966, a number of designers have done the Regent Street lights, including the Conran Design Group (1987), Imagination (1988), and the jewellers Butler & Wilson (1982).

Why do the decorations seem to have lost some of their impact? Harry Williams, the designer of this year's clowns scheme for Vantage Design, defends them energetically: "Who are you creating the lights for? It's not for people like Terence Conran. It's for the children. We'd been through trees, we'd been through stars."

Mr Pick's approach was different. "In my day," he says, "I used to set out to appeal to the more sophisticated, who, after all, did their shopping in Regent Street. Kids would only be attracted by the lights and the colour."

The real difference probably lies



Making light of Christmas: from top, Regent Street illuminations in 1960, 1979 and this year



Those bright, remembered days: Beverley Pick in the Sixties

in the cost. This year's scheme cost £175,000, contributed partly by the traders of the Regent Street Association, and partly by National Power, in the form of sponsorship. In the early days, Mr Pick was working with budgets of about £30,000. "If they did those schemes today, it would probably be £1 million-worth of work," he says.

No one, of course, is going to put up £1 million for Christmas lights unless it is clear that there is something to be gained from it. "In the Fifties and early Sixties going to see the lights became the thing to do," Mr Pick says. "Now even the media have lost interest."

CALLUM MURRAY

THE WORLD OF INTERIORS

THE GOLD ONE-HUNDREDTH

THE GOLD ONE-HUNDREDTH WORLD OF INTERIORS

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GON SCH

Shooting an actor acting the shooter

How about this for a prophetic dress rehearsal? In the film *Postcards from the Edge* (opening in Britain next month) Simon Callow plays the part of an English director named Simon, making his first film in America. A year after completing that Mike Nichols film in Hollywood, Callow was in Willieville, Texas, doing it for real. But the flamboyant, archetypal film director he created for the screen has little in common with the gravitas of the figure that occupies the director's chair in Willieville.

That the offer to direct his first film should have come from the United States was almost inevitable. Though Callow's accomplishments are less visible there (Equity prohibits him from acting on the American stage), his work is more highly prized than in Britain. His biography of Charles Laughton, dismissed by the editor of one British paper as too boring and badly written to be considered for serialization, was given a five-page review in *The New Yorker*. His performance in the six-hour *Faust* at the Lyric, Hammersmith, received tepid notices in England, but a feverishly enthusiastic review in *The New York Times*.

Callow was the first actor of his generation to re-cast himself, with equal success, as a director and writer. Precociously, strong opinions, the breezy public manner these characteristics have always provoked extreme reactions. People either love Callow or loathe him, and he is aware of it.

Luckily, one of his most loyal admirers is the film producer Ismail Merchant, who gave Callow his first screen role (as the Reverend Beebe in *A Room with a View*), and now the opportunity to direct his first film. Unable to finance this film in any other way ("We have letters of rejection which amount to a total exposé of the state of mind of people who finance films," says Callow), Merchant broke the film producer's cardinal rule by putting up the bulk of the money himself. "I wanted Simon for this project," says Merchant, "because the material is so theatrical, outlandish, operatic even, that it could go wrong in every direction without someone of his capabilities."

The project is the Carson McCullers novella, *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. It is an extreme and freakish love story of a giantess (Vanessa Redgrave) who falls in love with a hunchbacked dwarf.

Simon Callow, on the set of his first film as director, is interviewed by Anna Kythreotis

(Cork Hubber) who does not return her love but instead loves the man (Keith Carradine) who loved the giantess who had rejected him.

"The literary form of this is, to steal a term from modern South American writers, magic realism," explains Callow, lighting a fresh cigarette from the butt of the last. "The more I read of what McCullers had to say about it, as I believe, it was a sort of harsh, strange fairy story. It has the element of poetic feeling that is exactly what I would have wanted to bring to the screen had I chosen a subject myself."

He obeyed the Merchant imperative "like one accepts events in a

'I have no interest in final solutions: the actors take over the imaginative baton...'

dream. I'm what you might call a passive extrovert. I almost never go out to get anything; things have unbelievably luckily just come to me." The film came at a time when Callow began to notice that his theatre work was tending dangerously towards the cinematic. "I was trying to achieve something of the speed and change of focus that a film offers. The theatre should never be a medium for the director's self-expression, but it can be, and perhaps should be, in a film."

He arrived on the set "a complete and blushing virgin". His ability to cope with the dramatic elements was never in doubt, but his ease at picking up the language and the technical aspects of film-making amazed all. "Complete paralysis" is how Callow describes his reaction to his first moment on the set. "Then I

ceased to feel any anxiety at all. I knew that I'd have to conduct my education in public, as usual, and make a fool of myself."

Callow, an *enfant terrible* of the fringe, embraced gay literature and theatre long before it became fashionable to do so. His major theatrical break came when he created a contentious portrayal of Mozart in Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* for the National Theatre.

Callow then offended the British theatrical establishment with his book, *Being An Actor*. Its final chapter, the "Manifesto", attacked the hegemony of directors and advocated a radical re-assessment of their function. By taking on the auteur's medium, Callow knows he is putting his head in a noose.

"I don't take anything back – but I'm a different person. The person who wrote that Manifesto was absolutely right, and whenever I direct a play in the theatre I always take a copy and say 'Look. This is what I wrote and I think he's right, and I am as likely to offend against what he says in that as anybody else, so if I do, about me.' And they do."

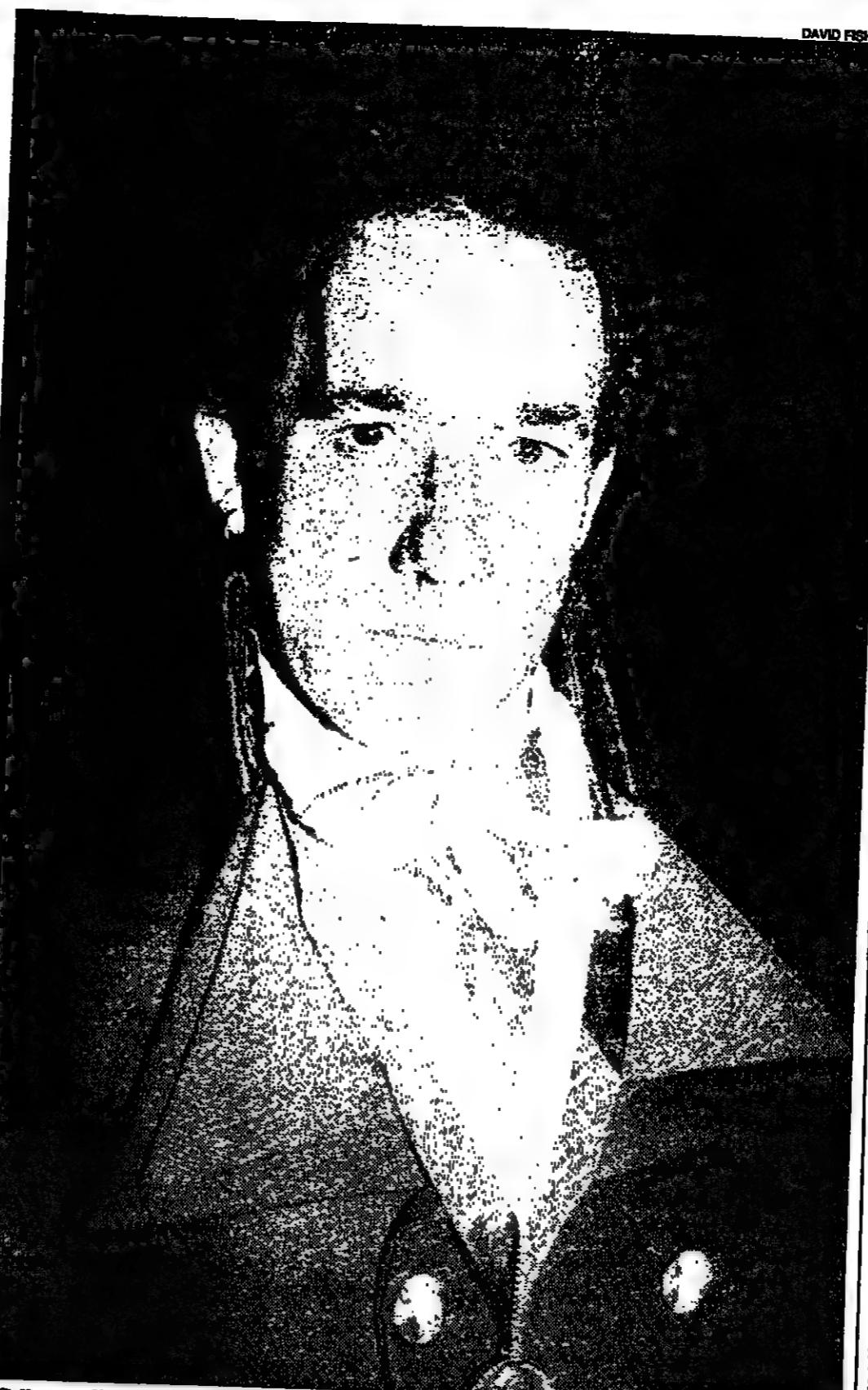
Not in Willieville, they don't. Scratch anyone on the set and they bleed praise to the point of haemorrhage. "Most directors lack knowledge and experience of acting – that is the most neglected aspect," says Rod Steiger. "Callow is imaginative, co-operative, compassionate, helpful, open to suggestions and advice – and without any ego problem. I'd work with him anytime."

For the film, Callow replaced his Manifesto with a three-page document that examined the nature of the work. "My belief is that the principal job of a director is to elucidate the vision of the work, to keep it ever present in people's minds. Once you do that, directing, except in the most technical sense, becomes almost redundant."

"I have no interest in imposing final solutions. I'm only interested in proposing the general intention of the piece and its world, and then plugging my collaborators into it. Then the actors take over the imaginative baton and go further than you'd imagined. The thing that I would most like to have said of me is that I was a catalyst."

At the close of the film Callow was given the clapper-board, the traditional tribute of the camera crew to a director who has earned their respect. The State of Texas gave him honorary citizenship, though he still has to pay his speeding fines.

Callow, as director, has to "conduct my education in public, as usual, and make a fool of myself"



DAVID FISHER

BRIEFING
To dance, sign here.

AMERICAN Ballet Theatre has told its dancers that unless they agree to new contracts by today, the company will be disbanded. The two sides are in dispute over touring allowances and a proposal that members of the corps de ballet should no longer be entitled to single rooms when on the road. Artistic director Jane Hermann says the principal dancers have all signed new contracts and she cannot believe the dancers would close down the company on such a point. The dancers' union is angry because the management issued its ultimatum direct to the dancers without going through the negotiating machinery.

All his OWN WORK

THE pianist John Ogdon's musical eccentricity and his tortured personal life have tended to eclipse the fact that he was, in his time, a considerable composer in his own right. A recital at London's Blackheath Concert Halls on Sunday should redress the imbalance in our memory of him. Works written when he was one of the central figures of the Manchester New Music Group will be played, together with later compositions such as his Sonata for unaccompanied flute, his 23 Preludes for piano, and his "American" piano sonata written for his wife, Brenda Lucas, one of the evening's pianists.



John Ogdon: also a composer

Homegrown

AFTER years of neglect, British film-makers are finally waking up to the wealth of grisly material lurking in the country's criminal files. Following his success with the lives and murders of *The Krays*, the director Peter Medak is now at the helm of *Let Him Have It* – an examination of the Bentley-Craig case which held the nation in thrall during the winter of 1952. Craig, aged 16, killed a policeman after being caught breaking into a confectionery warehouse in Croydon; but it was 19-year-old Bentley, his mentally defective accomplice, who was old enough to be executed. Two screen newcomers, Christopher Eccleston and Paul Reynolds, take the leading roles.

Last chance . . .

TOM Cairns' Greenwich production of *Mis Julie* relies confidently on physical naturalism and psychological realism, as well as on a fresh translation by Helen Cooper. As Strindberg's would-be seductress, Lesley Manville gives a credible, touching interpretation, made the more poignant by her physical frailty. In Barry Lynch's footman, Jean, she has a sturdy partner. An impressive London debut for Cairns, the show closes on Saturday at Greenwich Theatre (081-858 7755).



Garbarek: distinctive European

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Limited appeal of musical superlatives

LAST week revealed one of the more perverse phenomena of London's concert life: how a programme of exceptional interest played by an orchestra of reliable quality can all but empty a hall. The Chamber Orchestra of Europe was hardest hit. The first of its four concerts with Gennadi Rozhdestvensky at the Barbican offered Britten and Stravinsky rarities, along with more popular works. The public did not buy it.

Rozhdestvensky brings out the best in this orchestra. The maestro dislikes lengthy rehearsals; the sections work diligently among themselves to make up the shortfall; Rozhdestvensky twinkles at them at the right musical and psychological moment, and the result is transfixing. Sel-

dom are Britten's *Frank Bridge Variations* played with such vibrant string texture; seldom do Stravinsky's Symphonies of Wind Instruments sound so mordantly witty.

The reason for being there, though, was to hear Philip Langridge sing Britten's early *Quatre chansons françaises* and, joined by Yvonne Kenny and Stephen Varcoe, to perform Stravinsky's complete *Pulcinella*, songs and all. Britten wrote his first song-cycle when he was 15, and it has surfaced comparatively recently from the Britten estate, with a debut at Snape ten years ago, with sporadic performances since, and with a recording made last year.

The word-setting responds

more to the scenes and sounds of Verlaine and Hugo than to

the niceties of linguistic inflection. But so cunningly do the orchestra's own soloists duet with the voice amid extraordinarily confident orchestration, that the listener is struck only by the passion of the composer's own responses.

Stravinsky's game, on the other hand, was to encourage a sense of distance. The *trompe l'oeil* effect of his reworkings of Pergolesi's short, sparsely scored orchestral movements was sharply delineated in all its droll melancholy.

Plenty of seats were spare, too, in the Festival Hall for an ingenious BBC Symphony Orchestra programme focusing on music for the oboe by Mozart and Bruno Maderna.

More should have been there to hear Maurice Bourgue go a long way towards proving, in a

performance of deft ornamentation and musical clarity, that the oboe was the great original, preceding the flute in Mozart's two conceptions of this same work.

The flute may have dominated Bruno Maderna's writing in the 1950s, but the oboe took over in his final years, and the Third Concerto seems to sum up many of his preoccupations as a composer. The tug between "composed" and "spontaneous" music reaches its apogee in what is a substantially aleatory score, with chance playing as large a part as any orchestral instrument on stage.

Lothar Zagrosek kept pretty

tight control of the concerto's unfolding. The plan of action set out in Maderna's own recorded performance was by

and large followed, with the oboe's own open cadenza being stabilised by a free, filigree of orchestral pedal. Bourgue, as soloist, would then dare his colleagues to imitate or counter his bridle fragments of melody.

The flute had begun with

Stockhausen's curiously jubilant *Jubilee*, a 20-minute ritual of sound waves passing from left to right in an austere, almost chorale-like formula through an orchestra layered and disposed by means of register.

The item which acted as counterbalance and bait, Brahms's Third Symphony, was in fact an unremarkable performance, as was Janice Graham's uneasy rendering of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in a similarly challenging programme earlier in the week by the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra. That evening had started with the premiere of *The Music of Dawn* by David Matthews. A painting by Cecil Collins with the same title had inspired Matthews to write a tone poem for larger forces than is his wont, and to do so with energy and assurance. With its subtle shifts of colour, its scrapping ebb and flow of percussion, and its gradual intensification, the first part evoked both Britten and Debussy. The latter and more substantial part, though,

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JACK TINKER,
DAILY MAIL

INTO THE WOODS

PHOENIX THEATRE
Charing Cross Road, London WC2

Masculine women, operatic men

THEATRE

Y a Otra Cosa, Mariposa/ Peter and the Captain
Battersea Arts Centre

ROBERT Delamere's production of *When Five Years Pass*, Lorca's early surrealist romance with death, won a Fringe First at Edinburgh last year, and the Ragazzi Theatre Company he helped to found has since presented other Spanish pieces, including three more Lorcas. Now his company extends its range to Latin America, introducing the work of the Argentinian dramatist Susana Torres Molina, born in 1946, and Mario Benedetti, a generation older, from Uruguay. The first presents a woman's view of male sexual bravado; the second a less successful confrontation between two men, a political prisoner and his torturer.

The title of Molina's play, *Y a Otra Cosa, Mariposa*, translates as *There's Another Thing, Butterfly* but it has the cheeky rhythm of "See You Later, Alligator", suggesting the phrase comes from some pop song over there. In five scenes spanning the rise and fall of male lust, from boyhood to park bench, four friends boast of their erotic prowess and thereby reveal a contemptuous, scared or just-shabby attitude towards the other sex.

The joshing is shrewdly observed, particularly in the first two scenes, but what gives the play its originality is that the four males are played by actresses. Four coat stands are hung with Fair Isle jumpers, leather jackets, suits and old men's hats which the women don and discard as the play proceeds, slicking back their hair

JEREMY KINGSTON



Actresses play dirty-mouthed urchins: Elizabeth Barrington (top) and Cate Withnay in Molina's *Y a Otra Cosa, Mariposa*

brilliant, too, of Sandra Madgwick to take a role created for Dame Alicia, in Ashton's *Les Rendezvous*, and then, thanks to her amazing technique and her sense of music, to dance it probably better than anyone has done since Marikova herself.

The ensemble dances in *Rendezvous* came from the Royal Ballet School, an apt reminder that Marikova is a great teacher, who has devoted the last quarter of a century, since she stopped performing, to handing on the tradition which she first absorbed as a 14-year-old prodigy in Diaghilev's company.

Nobody, I think, can ever have made more of *The Nutcracker* than did Marikova and her long-time partner, Anton Dolin. Andris Hall, who danced it at the gala, was fortunate indeed to have been coached by the great lady.

George Balanchine, Marikova's first choreographer, was represented by Merrill Ashley and Adam Lüders from New York City Ballet in a duet from *Chah-*

vanced in Winnie Mandela and the Football Club came from a black female journalist who pointed out that any half-way articulate "activist" who emerged as spokesman for the aspirations of black South Africa is promptly whisked off to jail. Those who are left are effectively leaderless, obeying not wise counsel but some dim atavistic impulse to root out those weaker than themselves and punish them individually for the general impotence.

John Carlo's documentary contained much testimony of arbitrary punishment: tense voices rehearsing tales of near-extinction at the hands of those whom they had regarded as friends. The wonder was that they kept returning for more. In a shed behind Mrs Mandela's house at 8115, Orlando West, Soweto, a "disciplinary committee" sat in judgement of those who were said to have betrayed the club's members

to the police. Execution was summary and brutal, typically consisting of a lashing with that redolent symbol of white oppression, the sjambok. One was forcibly reminded of the gaudiest scene in Wilbur Smith's latest published fantasy about South Africa, in which the whip is wielded by a vengeful harpy with (most improbably) bare breasts.

Through her lawyers, Mrs

Mandela declined to be interviewed for this grimly persuasive programme, which sought to determine her direct involvement in these and related crimes for which she will be tried next February. But the biggest missed opportunity was the failure to canvass the ethnic minority on the damage that this brouhaha has done to the reputation of the ANC. White South Africans to the right of Genghis Khan must be over the moon, as we used to say in the world of football. Those to

conce, never seen here before. Fittingly for this special occasion, Nina Ananishvili and Alexei Faddeyev showed that the pas de deux from *Don Quixote* can be done stylishly as well as brilliantly.

Restrictions of space make it impossible to mention all the performers, musicians and colleagues who came to pay their respects. The programme included further reminders of Marikova's career, with *Le Spectre de la Rose* and extracts from *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*: great ballets which she illuminated.

Also included, more poignantly, was Dolin's pretty *Pas de Quatre*, one of the little party pieces which she could make look marvellous. Many present must have seen her in their minds' eye, still soaring miraculously across the stage, still finding absolute perfection of shape, nuance and timing in every move, and still effortlessly exerting the charm with which nature blessed her.

JOHN PERCIVAL

the left will presumably be re-examining their icons to see whether or not they might be fakes after all. It plainly will not do to claim that they have been tarnished by the Press.

Football training must be an excellent way of keeping in trim for those awkward moments when homicidal maniacs come running after one in the streets of Soweto, but it was never explained why this posse of vigilantes had adopted the guise of a sporting club in the first place. One imagined one heard the voice of Colin Moynihan protesting about the image of the game. It was also, in the margin, the worst possible angu for the rosy feminist fantasy of pacific matriarchy. After such a brutal regime under the aegis of a Godmother, the "movement" would do well to instil a Chelsea supporter.

MARTIN CROPPER

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MARTIN CROPPER

DANCE
Alicia Markova
80th Birthday Gala
Sadler's Wells

HARDLY any of the dancers taking part in this performance to honour Dame Alicia Markova on her 80th birthday can have seen her dance. But if they had wanted eyewitness accounts, the house was full of people who had watched her many times or even danced with her. They could vouch that for virtuosity, style, feeling and wit there were few to surpass her in the roles she made her own.

How clever, then, of Carla Fracci to contribute something quite different: three solos after Isadora Duncan in which, in turn, she was full of tragedy to a Beethoven adagio, pliably touching to "Ave Maria" and exultantly stirring to the Internationale. How

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BBC 1

6.00 Cestax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando
6.50 Daytime UK: 9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwave. With Andy Craig 9.25 Dash of the Day. Cookery hints from Rosemary Moon 9.30 People Today. Adrian Mills and Dab Jones report on the lives of people across Britain 10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Barney. Cartoon (r) 10.35 People Today. Including Health UK. Martyn Lewis looks at immunisation 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Kirby. Robert Kirby-Silk hosts a discussion on teenage rebellion 11.45 Before Noon. Another Brainwave winner is revealed 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club 12.20 Scene Today 12.45 Regional news and weather 1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Cestax) 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly hosts the EuroQuiz 2.15 Film Hanged (1980) A close encounter with a crashed UFO leads two astronauts (Daren McGavin and Robert Vaughn) on to the trail of a government cover-up. Routine sci-fi thriller, directed by James L. Conway 8.50 Children's BBC: Farmer-Me-Mo! Farm 4.05 The Chipmunks 4.20 Happy Families 4.35 Now Then: Children of the Caves. (r) CHOICE: An archaeology series for children starts at a cave near Tenby in west Wales, where they are excavating a settlement from the Stone Age. Two local children join resident hosts Tim Gregory and Paul Berwick to meet the director of the dig and look over the artefacts. Himself an archaeologist, Gregory is an enthusiastic guide and seasoned television presenter Berwick is an artist, on hand to draw the site as it might have been 12,000 years ago.



Encounter: Reagan (left) and James (3.30pm)

But the main novelty of the format is to introduce two more youngsters as 'time children' dressed in the clothes of the period, and got them to swap notes with the modern kids. The idea is to underline differences between now and then, with the Stone Age children revealing their ignorance of mathematics, watches, sandwiches and chocolate. It is a friendly show which wears its knowledge lightly

5.00 Newsround
5.10 Grange Hill. (Cestax) (r)
5.35 Neighbours. (Cestax) (r) Northern Ireland. Sportswide, 5.40 Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Suscone and Anna Ford. Weather 6.30 Regional news magazines Northern Ireland. Neighbours 7.00 Trivial Pursuit. Rory McGrath hosts the board-game quiz (Cestax) 7.30 EastEnders. (Cestax) 8.00 The Good Life. Benign Seventies comedy of suburban self-sufficiency, starring Richard Briers, Felicity Kendal, Paul Eddington and Penelope Keith (r) (Cestax) 8.30 A Question of Sport. Ian Botham is joined by Liverpool defender Glenn Hysen and Olympic swimmer Sharon Davies. Bill Beaumont's team members are the world snooker champion Stephen Hendry and Scotland's rugby union captain David Sole. David Coleman puts the questions (Cestax) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Regional news and weather 9.30 Clive James Meets Ronald Reagan

CHOICE: This encounter between the greatest living Australian and the only man to make it from B movies to the White House was not available for previewing, but it promises much. On the face of it, Ronnie might have difficulty fitting the 50 minutes, given that he was apparently unable to say anything as presenters had not been given time to get him into the autocue. The indications are that James will go easy on the old guy and tickle with safe subjects, such as Mrs Thatcher. The show was recorded a week before the Conservative leadership battle but you can still expect

a glowing Reagan tribute to his old friend. The interview also covers the assassination attempt which threatened to end the Reagan presidency only three months after it had started. The great communicator's memory of the incident turns out to be rather sharper than the subsequent Iran-Contra affair. Wales: 10.05 Week in Out. 10.00-10.50 Clive James Meets Ronald Reagan

10.20 From the Heart of the World: The Elder Brothers' Warning. (r) CHOICE: An ample documentary from northern Colombia offers a rare glimpse of the reclusive Kogi tribe, descendants of a civilization that went into hiding 400 years ago and has hardly been seen since, certainly not on television. Thanks to an intermediary, the producer Alan Ereira was able to take a camera crew to the Kogi's mountain retreat and make first-hand contact with a culture that owes nothing to the 20th century. Apart, that is, for a concern about the environment, articulated by the Kogi priests who accuse the rest of us of having brought the world to the edge of destruction. As if to concurred, Ereira shows grave robbers on another part of the mountain hoping to find the gold that will make their fortune. The price of Kogi co-operation is a certain distancing, with their words being spoken by British actors and a reference to their family life. But there is much fascinating material. Wales: 10.50 12.20am From the Heart of the World 11.15 Weekend

BBC 2

5.00 News
6.15 Westminster. Roundup of business from the Lords and Commons
9.00 Sportz Crazy. A look at some bizarre Australian sports (r)
9.40 Film: Up in Mabel's Room (1944, b/w). Routine housewife starring Marjorie Reynolds and Dennis O'Keefe. A young professor has to retrieve some incriminating evidence from a former girlfriend's room. Directed by Alan Dwan
11.00 After Hours. Magazine programme which looks at the latest trends in America. Includes a feature on the pop band Duran Duran
11.15 China Series' Summer Season: Penny Hedge. China gets to the bottom of an ancient ceremony at the flea market in Witoxy, Yorkshire (r). Northern Ireland: 11.15-11.35 Ulster in Focus
11.26 The Pop Shop. Diane Kemp finds out why the pop industry is making a comeback in Britain (r)
11.55 The Breaking. How a young Arab station is broken in (r)
12.05 Mosaic. Two of which the first, Black, traces the history of racism in Britain. Folklore at 12.35 by Racism, a 15/16 report in which young black people talk about their experiences (r) 1.20 Greenclaws (r)
1.35 See Hear (r)

2.00 News and weather, followed by Where Were You on the Day War Broke Out? A review of the 24 hours preceding the start of the second world war at midnight on Sunday September 3, 1939 (r)
2.50 Holiday Outings. Philip Schofield investigates a multi-activity holiday in the French Alps (r)
3.00 News and weather, followed by Westminster Live. The day's business in the Lords and Commons, including prime minister's question time 3.30 News and weather. Regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Paul Copley hosts the word game
4.30 Behind the Headlines. With Robert Robinson, Loyd Grossman and guests 5.00 Advice Shop: Out on the Country. A special edition from Somerset reports on the spread into the countryside of traditionally inner-city problems such as homelessness and unemployment
6.30 The Travel Show Guide: Normandy. (Cestax) (r)
6.00 Film: Seven Cities of Gold (1955). Richard Egan, Anthony Quinn and Jeffrey Hunter star in a dull costume drama about the Spanish conquistadors' expedition from Mexico to annex California and its search for the seven cities. Directed by Robert D. Webb
7.40 Prisoners of Conscience. Claire Rayner relates the first of two stories about people imprisoned for their beliefs
7.55 Best 3.45 Best in Pop - In Profile 8.30 About Britain 4.30-5.00 Johnbee

9.00 Best 3.45 Best in Pop - In Profile 8.30 About Britain 4.30-5.00 Johnbee

TYNE TEES
All London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Big Breakfast 5.10-5.30 News and Away 1.00 Week in Out. 10.00-10.30 6.00 Hurry for Today 11.00 Prisoner. Cell Block H 12.00 Dennis Doughty 1.20 Film 12.30 60 Minutes 4.10 About Britain 4.30-5.00 Johnbee

HTV WALES
All HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at 5.30-6.00 Wales Live

TSW
All London except: 1.50pm-1.50 Coronation Street 2.25-2.50 A Simple Delicacy 3.35-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.30 News and weather 6.00-6.30 60 Minutes 7.30-7.45 60 Minutes 7.50-7.55 60 Minutes 7.55-7.58 60 Minutes 7.58-7.59 60 Minutes 7.59-7.60 60 Minutes 7.60-7.61 60 Minutes 7.61-7.62 60 Minutes 7.62-7.63 60 Minutes 7.63-7.64 60 Minutes 7.64-7.65 60 Minutes 7.65-7.66 60 Minutes 7.66-7.67 60 Minutes 7.67-7.68 60 Minutes 7.68-7.69 60 Minutes 7.69-7.70 60 Minutes 7.70-7.71 60 Minutes 7.71-7.72 60 Minutes 7.72-7.73 60 Minutes 7.73-7.74 60 Minutes 7.74-7.75 60 Minutes 7.75-7.76 60 Minutes 7.76-7.77 60 Minutes 7.77-7.78 60 Minutes 7.78-7.79 60 Minutes 7.79-7.80 60 Minutes 7.80-7.81 60 Minutes 7.81-7.82 60 Minutes 7.82-7.83 60 Minutes 7.83-7.84 60 Minutes 7.84-7.85 60 Minutes 7.85-7.86 60 Minutes 7.86-7.87 60 Minutes 7.87-7.88 60 Minutes 7.88-7.89 60 Minutes 7.89-7.90 60 Minutes 7.90-7.91 60 Minutes 7.91-7.92 60 Minutes 7.92-7.93 60 Minutes 7.93-7.94 60 Minutes 7.94-7.95 60 Minutes 7.95-7.96 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● LAW 32, 33
● SPORT 38-42

BUSINESS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

BTR chief executive to stand down

JOHN Cahill is to stand down as chief executive of BTR, the industrial conglomerate, after four years. He will be replaced by Alan Jackson, managing director of BTR Nylex, the Australian subsidiary, from January 1.

Mr Cahill, who reached the company's normal retirement age of 60 this year, will remain as a main board director of BTR and chairman of BTR Inc, in charge of the company's North American operations.

City analysts expressed surprise at the timing of Mr Cahill's departure. It coincides with growing concern in the City about prospects for BTR, resulting in a series of downgradings of profit forecasts.

But Sir Owen Green, the chairman, said speculation about Mr Cahill's position was unfounded. "We wanted to avoid the lame duck syndrome so we made the announcement just one month before he retires."

Dobson steady

Dobson Park Industries, the industrial electronics and mining equipment group, maintained pre-tax profits at £19.5 million (£19.2 million) for the year to end-September, despite rationalisation and restructuring costs of £2.8 million. Earnings fell from 12.09p to 11.32p and the total dividend is maintained at 5.75p with an unchanged final of 3.85p. The company is to seek shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its ordinary shares.

Temps, page 27

Westland rise

Westland has raised its dividend for the first time since it restored payments in 1987. The final dividend is 2.5p (2.25p), lifting the total for the year to end-September 7 per cent to 3.75p. Profits rose 27 per cent to £26.2 million.

Temps, page 27

Tunnel issue

Eurotunnel claimed there was a large surge in investors applying for its rights issue, which closed at 3pm yesterday. A slow start led to fears that much of the £330 million issue might be left with underwriters. The final result may not be known until tomorrow. Fully paid new Eurotunnel units ended unchanged at 315p compared with 318p for existing units. The rights issue was at 285p.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9205 (-0.0220)
German mark 2.8000 (-0.0102)
Exchange Index 93.7 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1695.3 (+12.6)
FT-SE 100 2192.7 (+13.3)
New York Dow Jones 2569.31 (+9.66)
Tokyo Nikkei Average 22725.99 (+271.36)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
Borrower's Investment 13%
3-month eligible bills 12%
US: Prime Rate 10%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.05-7.03%
30-year bonds 104 1/2-104 1/4

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ 1.9205 £ 1.9190
\$ 2.8000 \$ 2.8140
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Coin group promises to raise dividend

By MARTIN BARROW

BIRMINGHAM Mint Group, the coin minting group and specialist engineer, has promised to increase its full-year dividend from 5.5p a share to 6.5p as part of its defence against a £12.2 million cash bid by IMI, the Midlands engineer that operates Britain's only other private sector mint.

The pledge was made after Birmingham Mint reported better than expected pre-tax profits of £1.3 million for the six months to end-September, compared with losses of £599,000 for the first half of the previous financial year, and earnings of 7.7p a share, against losses of 2.7p. The interim dividend rises from 5p to 5.5p.

Birmingham Mint also announced the disposal of Nevin Lonsdale, its loss-making printed circuit board business, to Landrax for an initial £500,000, with a further £200,000 due if certain profit targets are met.

Group profits were struck after an exceptional credit of £550,000 arising from the sale of the company's head office, against a charge of £507,000 last time. Extraordinary losses of £1.06 million relate principally to Nevin Lonsdale.

Birmingham Mint shares were unchanged at 82p, against IMI's offer of 85p. Tony Cross, chairman of Birmingham Mint, said: "The IMI bid entirely fails to recognise the company's recovery potential or the substantial incremental profits which could be earned from putting the two numbers businesses together."

Gary Allen, chief executive of IMI, said that Birmingham Mint's promise of an increased dividend was "irresponsible action in the face of a bid".

The Office of Fair Trading has until December 24 to deliver its report on the proposed merger.

COMPANY BRIEFS

ACAL (Int)

Pre-tax: £22.18m (£1.99m)

EPS: 10.1p (8.4p)

Div: 1.8p (1.5p)

FABER PREST (Fin)

Pre-tax: £4.83m (£4.67m)

EPS: 34.56p (32.47p)

Div: 7.7p mkg 12p (9.2p)

MARINA DEVELOPMENTS

Pre-tax: £22.18m (£2.80m)

EPS: 10.5p (10.9p)

Div: 5p (6p)

FLAGSTONE HOLDINGS (Int)

Pre-tax: £410,000 loss

EPS: 0.30p (EPS: 0.28p)

Div: Nil

THWAITES (DANIEL) (Int)

Pre-tax: £1.6m (£2.86m)

EPS: 5.5p (8.9p)

Div: 0.4p (0.4p)

SYLTONE (Int)

Pre-tax: £21.1m (£0.98m)

EPS: 2.52p (7.7p)

Div: 3.0p (2.0p)

CRAGGWICK MILL (Int)

Pre-tax: £255,000

EPS: 5.2p (4.2p)

Div: 2.00p (1.85p)

ELGA GROUP (Int)

Pre-tax: £304,000

EPS: 2.05p (1.73p)

Div: 0.8p (0.5p)

TEX HOLDINGS (Int)

Pre-tax: £17,000

EPS: 0.3p (1.14p)

Div: Nil (3.0p)

ROLFE & NOLAN (Int)

Pre-tax: £681,000

EPS: 8.0p (6.4p)

Div: 2.1p (1.5p)

DUNDEE & LONDON INV

Pre-tax: £22.79m (£2.44m)

EPS: 12.22p (10.70p)

Div: 8.2p mkg 12p

FALLS:

Elys (Wimborne) 850p (-25p)

Computer People 155p (-10p)

Dartcon Holdings 645p (-10p)

Closing prices

Alexon fashions a cool £10m despite inclement weather

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALEXON, the women's wear retailer and Marks and Spencer supplier, is weathering the economic downturn better than most fashion retailers but the group says that trading is tough in some divisions.

In the six months to end-September, pre-tax profits rose 14 per cent to £10.6 million on sales up 7 per cent at £80.7 million.

Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 23.3p and the dividend is up 20 per cent at 6p. There was an exceptional property profit of £1.5 million against £900,000 last time.

Peter Wiegand, the group's chairman, said Alexon was still benefiting from the disciplines imposed by the management team in the mid-eighties when it took over the business.

In addition, the group is small enough to be able to increase its share in a stagnant market.



MICHAEL POWELL

Model performance: Peter Wiegand, left, with Lawrence Snyder, chief executive

brand aimed at older women, has seen profit decrease in the first half, but the division has been relaunched with a collection for next spring that has received a good reception so far.

The manufacturing division made profits of £3.9 million at the operating level, against £3.7 million last time.

Sales at Claremont Garments, which supplies Marks

and Spencer, were flat in the first half. The group is reducing overheads and improving efficiency in an attempt to push up margins.

Alexon, which has shops in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Scandinavia, is exploring other European markets for both the Alexon and Dash brands.

Gearing at the year-end is

likely to be around 20 per cent

and the interest charge is

covered more than ten times.

Mr Wiegand says: "Within the current retail environment we are determined to maintain our growth in profits."

"Consequently, senior management is being even more aggressive in its approach to cost-cutting and overhead control."

Shares in the group were

unchanged at 472p.

Judge spells out firms' pension duty

EMPLOYERS have a duty to act in good faith when making decisions affecting the pension rights of present and former employees, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, the Vice-Chancellor, has said.

He ruled that Imperial Tobacco, Hanson's Bristol subsidiary, must not look solely to its own financial interest when deciding whether to consent to future inflation-linked pension increases for the 26,500 members of the £1.3 billion Imperial Tobacco pension fund, which has a surplus of at least £130 million.

The case arose after Imperial Tobacco indicated it would refuse to consent to increases above a 5 per cent ceiling.

Sir Nicolas said the company must act in such a way as not to destroy or seriously damage the relationship of

confidence between employer and employee.

The company had denied saying it would refuse future increases above 5 per cent, but that had been the basis on which the fund's management committee had acted and on which it had recommended members to transfer into a new retirement scheme.

The pensions group suspected the company was refusing in order to achieve a transfer of the fund's surplus into its hands. "In the absence of any other explanation, this is a fair inference," Sir Nicolas said.

If correct, it would indicate the company was using its right to withhold consent not for the purpose of continuing to use the assets exclusively for pensions but for some other external purpose and it would be acting unlawfully.

STOCK MARKET

Turnover kept off low for year by two trades worth £180m

ONLY the execution of two programme trades estimated to be worth a combined £180 million, prevented turnover in the equity market falling to its lowest level of the year.

BZW is thought to have been responsible for one trade worth more than £80 million, while Warburg Securities had its name linked to the other. Dealers said the trades, which involved several institutions switching out of various sectors and into others, accounted for almost 70 per cent of the total business transacted. By the close of business only 326 million shares had been traded.

Dealers complained that the electricity flotation was taking up the interest of most investors at the expense of the rest of the equity market.

But sentiment remained firm. Hopes of a peaceful solution to the Gulf, a drop in the oil price and hopes of an early cut in base rates lifted the FT-SE 100 index 13.1 points to 2,169.6. The narrower FT index of 30 shares also added 12.5 at 1,695.3.

Government securities saw gains of 5% halved, amid concern about a possible rise in German interest rates.

Eurotunnel closed unchanged at 318p while the warrants firmed 1p to 26p as the deadline for the take-up of its £533 million rights issue was reached.

Poor expectations of Christmas trading led to a downgrading of forecasts by several brokers for both Cadbury Schweppes, down 5p at 317p, and United Biscuits, 2p lighter at 308p. Cadbury Schweppes had its estimates for the current year reduced by some £10 million to about £275 million and for

the drug's anti-inflammatory properties would help to boost its sales. The group describes Serevent as the first breakthrough in asthma treatment for 20 years.

Glaxo is striving to establish a new generation of drugs to replace Zantac, its best selling anti-ulcer drug, which continues to provide a large proportion of group profits. But last month its share price was hit by reports that Sumatriptan, its anti-mi-

graine drug, may contain possible side effects.

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, fell 6p to 221p on reports that James Capel, the stockbroker, had substantially downgraded its profits forecast for the current year from £195 million to £180 million, and for 1991 from £185 million to £150 million. Capel declined to comment.

Siebe, the instrument controls group, rose 12p to 298p before today's interim figures that are expected to show pre-tax profits up from £80.8 million to £86 million. In June, the shares were trading about the 530p level. Reports last weekend suggest that Barry Stephens, chairman and chief executive, may be under increasing institutional pressure to relinquish one of his roles.

The drug's anti-inflammatory properties would help to boost its sales. The group describes Serevent as the first breakthrough in asthma treatment for 20 years.

Shares of Brent Walker, the debt laden leisure group headed by George Walker, touched 98p before settling at 91p, a rise of 3p on the day, after the successful completion of the group's £103 million convertible bond issue. Earlier attempts at placing the stock failed with the

profits downgrading by Smith New Court, the stockbroker, also left George Wimpey, the housebuilder, 5p cheaper at 209p.

Tipphook, the container and trailer rental group, rallied 10p to 361p ahead of interim figures on Thursday.

US airline files for Chapter 11 cover

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

CONTINENTAL Airline Holdings, formerly Texas Air, has gone into bankruptcy court protection from creditors for the second time in seven years, and sold its Seattle to Tokyo route to American Airlines to raise \$10 million.

Soaring fuel costs made Continental unable to pay interest on its \$6.2 billion debts and prompted bankers to end talks aimed at providing the airline with a further \$250 million of credit.

Continental, which owns Eastern Air Lines — under bankruptcy court protection since last year — says the filing, under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code, will not affect customers.

Holli Harris, president and chief executive, said: "We enter Chapter 11 by necessity. It has temporarily alleviated our debt problem and will help us cope with high fuel costs. It provides us with a breathing space and I have no doubt that we will successfully emerge."

Continental estimates this year's fuel bill at \$1.1 billion, up \$231 million since Iraq invaded Kuwait. The October bill to fuel Continental's 338 planes jumped 125 per cent and in November it was still up 90 per cent. But the airline said it would not lay off any of its 37,000 workforce, nor sell any more international routes.

Paul Turk, who runs Avmark, the independent airline consultancy, said: "Everyone is having a terrible year, it is just that Continental has less of a margin to cope with a downturn than others."

Mr Turk added that Continental might seek more cash from SAS, the Scandinavian airline, which almost doubled its stake in Continental last August to 16.8 per cent by buying the 7 per cent from Frank Lorenzo, the out-going chairman. Mr Lorenzo built Texas Air during the Eighties and placed Continental in Chapter 11 protection in 1983 to break the airline's unions.

■ Pan Am pilots have filed a court action to prevent the airline from selling off its London routes by the financially strapped carrier to United Airlines, alleging Pan Am breached a contract with the union.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

City and Westminster suspended at 0.5p

SHARES in City and Westminster Group, the mini-conglomerate, have been suspended at the request of the directors. The shares were quoted at just 0.5p each at suspension. The company says it sought the suspension after running into problems in the preparation of audited accounts for the year to March. City and Westminster is suing Price Waterhouse, its former auditor, and seeking damages of more than £5 million.

The dispute with Price Waterhouse followed City and Westminster's reverse takeover of A&M, the Unlisted Securities Market company, last summer. Stoy Hayward has since taken over as auditor. The company said it will report its preliminary results no later than January 24, with results for the six months to September soon after.

Purchases by BAT sells German stores

PERKINS Foods, the acquisitive group that moved from the US to the main market in May, is spending £14.7 million on two frozen food businesses. Perkins is buying Enko, a Dutch manufacturer of frozen convenience foods, for £8 million, and Feilseide Foods, a company that manufactures frozen sausages, for £6.7 million.

Chamberlin suffering

CHAMBERLIN & Hill, the foundry operator and electrical engineer, suffered a decline in first-half profits and gave warning that profits for the year as a whole are likely to fall short of last year's figure.

The shares lost 10p to 85p. Pre-tax profits declined by 14 per cent from £1.02 million to £876,000 in the six months to end-September. On turnover down by 3 per cent from £9.75 million to £9.47 million. Earnings per share fell from 9.32p to 7.96p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p.

Timber group cuts dividend

PHOENIX Timber Group has cut its interim dividend after a pre-tax loss of £379,000 in the six months to end-September (£479,000 profit) on turnover down 14 per cent from £36.1 million to £31 million. There was a 2.8p loss per share (earnings of 2.5p). The interim dividend has been cut from 1.1p to 0.5p. The shares lost 3p to 5p.

Bell loss at £268m

BELL Group, the Bond Corp Holdings subsidiary, reported an Aus\$672 million (£268 million) loss for the 15 months to October. The latest unaudited results mean Bell Group has accumulated Aus\$944 million of losses since June 1988. The company's survival now depends on a restructuring, which involves the swapping of debt for

There comes a stage when success starts to look embarrassing, and if dealings in the unofficial "grey market" in electricity shares are anything to go by, that stage is fast approaching for advisers to the electricity float.

Cheques totalling £500 million have already piled up at the receiving banks, chasing shares worth not much more than £2 billion in their part-paid form, even before the stage comes in, which on past form will be during the last two or three days before the offer closes.

So far, the average investment is for a relatively modest £500 partly paid, and more than 90 per cent are for shares in the potential investor's own regional electricity company. Most of those applications, therefore, will be met in full, if the pattern of last year's water float is followed.

But the stage will see the "grey market" dealings, where the average indicated premium is 33 per cent part-paid ranging up to 37 per cent for one of the 12 companies, Northern, as a clear signal of easy pickings. This then becomes a self-fulfilling

prophecy, as all 12 are oversubscribed, clawback provisions go into effect, and the institutions scramble around in the after-market for a decent portfolio.

The advisers to the float have had to walk a difficult tightrope. Uncertainty over the Gulf was nullified by the inclusion of a proper *force majeure* which handed over control to the City, while the market has risen by 100 points since the issue was priced.

If the distributors go to the hefty per cent premiums enjoyed by the water companies, the relevant politicians and civil servants can look forward to an interesting few hours in front of the Public Accounts Committee in a few months' time.

More importantly for the City, there is a coterie within the Department of Energy that has always been convinced that water was given away and has been keen not to repeat the mistake.

Their hand would be strengthened

if the distributors roar away to a massive premium, with inevitable consequences for the sale of the generators next year and British Coal thereafter.

Another blip?

Few Chancellors can have entered office with so many economic indicators signalling that government policy is working. When he took the Treasury helm last week, Norman Lamont could certainly draw comfort from the received wisdom in the City and Whitehall that the anecdotal and statistical evidence was all pointing one way. The counter-inflationary squeeze put in place by his forerunner but one was seen by all bar the extreme sceptics to be at last delivering

the right sort of numbers, albeit at the price of recession.

Indeed, published figures show both high street and edge-of-town superstores red with the blood of haemorrhaging retailers. Unemployment is again on the rise and output in retreat. Even the money supply, long a source of difficulty for the Treasury, is finally doing the right thing.

The breathtaking slowdown in the growth of M0, the narrow money measure still officially targeted, would suggest the ultimate confirmation that the consumer is reining back hard.

That was until yesterday's joker from the Central Statistical Office, which could spoil Mr Lamont's promising hand of patience. The question perplexing economists, and doubtless the Chancellor, is how consumer credit could surge to a

record £4.23 billion in October when all else told us that consumers have reined back hard. Another "blip", perhaps?

For all the Bank of England's metaphor, the money markets remain convinced that a base rate cut is imminent. But if credit growth has resumed an upward path, any calculations Mr Lamont has done on base rate cuts, with a view to bringing mortgage rates down next month, must be rapidly reworked. The Chancellor's "honeymoon" could be over already.

Disharmony

The traditional British unit trust may prove to be one of the least expected but most regretted victims of European harmonisation. The SIB's proposals to bring in all sorts of exotic new funds reflects twin pressures from the EC UCT's directive and the plans of Paris

and Luxembourg to steal a march on London as a financial centre. The directive allows much national discretion over investment rules, while giving a passport to sell in any member country. Luxembourg has attracted promoters by being irresponsibly liberal. Paris has used its discretion to boost the local futures and options market to rival Liffe.

This has produced much nonsense. Funds investing in property may be classed as unit trusts though valuations can differ by 100 per cent and liquidity is not as high as many a receiver would like. Gambles on futures and options are given tax concessions as though they promoted wider share ownership. The proposed marketing restrictions are wholly inadequate. Investors will suffer and an honourable industry that has served savers well will be tarnished.

The pressures cannot be wished away, but these proposals should be rethought even at this late stage. At the very least, such funds should not be allowed to masquerade as unit trusts.

COMMENT

McCarthy's plan throws a lifeline to Cowley



Lord McCarthy: 'Cowley is a site made in Heaven'

company to take over the plant and creating an unfettered business park on the site – and rejects them all. Lord McCarthy, looking at outright opposition, the policy adopted by the city council that commissioned his work, said bluntly: "We conclude that this position is untenable." Opposition like this, the report said, could not muster commercial or political power, and would endanger the possibility of constructive talks with the company about the plant's future.

Lord McCarthy's report makes rough reading for some council left-wingers. He looks at three options: opposing closure; finding another motor

What Lord McCarthy pro-

try to bring in a compulsory purchase order and especially looks at change-of-use planning applications with a favourable mind. Rover might phase in the closures and pay more than £2 million into a specially established Cowley contingency fund to ease the transition and training of the workforce at the plant.

For Rover, the prize is worth having. Oxford City Council's valuation estimate that a mixed commercial, residential and retail development at Cowley could put a value of up to £50 million on the site, a prime piece of southeast real estate. "From a developer's point of view," Lord McCarthy said yesterday, "this site was made in Heaven."

Cowley's unions are supporting the plan. Ivor Braggins, TGWU convenor, said even Lord McCarthy in his realism: "In a realistic world, you cannot expect the company to continue employment if it can't produce cars and sell them in the market place."

The council, while accepting Lord McCarthy's advice, tried to appease a range of internal political views by attempting to hold on to the fig-leaf of "co-operative" opposition. That can be avoided by the company simply not taking up the McCarthy plan, but Rover was positive yesterday, praising the realism of what is being suggested. A formal meeting between Rover and the council to start talks is likely.

Lord McCarthy was optimistic, despite the last-minute operational difficulties of the council's political manoeuvrings. While accepting that the current recession made a new start for Cowley even more difficult, he looked to the future.

He said: "This is a long-term development. If the work was put in now, then when the upturn came, Cowley would benefit."

He had no doubts. He said: "This site at Cowley will participate in the economic recovery."

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lowson joins County team

COUNTY NatWest has won another victory in the bid to build up its fledgling derivatives arm by poaching Piers Lowson, top futures and options associate at James Capel, to join its team in Edinburgh. Lowson, who joined Capel in 1987, has made his name in the field of options research, and is advising the Securities and Investments Board on a new regime for futures and options funds in Britain. "I am now looking forward to a holiday," says Lowson, aged 26, who resigned yesterday and joins County as an associate director in January – at the same time as Andrew Barrie, a former colleague at Capel, who resigned from the firm in August. They will both be working with Robert Mapstone, former head of UK derivatives at Warburg Securities, who is running the fast-expanding division. Lowson and Barrie will also be reunited with another past colleague – Graham Cottis, who left Capel for Kleinwort Benson, and is now head dealer at County. And there is a further academic touch to it all, since County's consultant on quantitative research – Dr Jan Kwiatkowski – worked with Lowson in 1987, while he was studying portfolio theory as a

THE electricity privatisation is set to be an overwhelming success if City trends are anything to go by. For the London Wall branch of Rymans, the stationer, was completely sold out of pins yesterday – to the frustration of punters who hoped to pin sizeable cheques to their application forms.

Young at heart

ERNST & Young, one of the largest firms of accountants in America, has dismissed talk that it is about to file for bankruptcy protection. And it says it is just coincidence that it has spent \$250,000 on six upbeat advertisements in large newspapers, thanking everyone for their support. Talk that the firm is about to seek Chapter 11 protection stems from potentially large legal claims over past audits of two large collapsed Savings & Loan Associations. The Fed-

eral Deposit Insurance Corporation, the depositors' watchdog, has already filed a \$560 million action against the firm, and it faces further action for its role in the fall of Lincoln Savings, the largest S&L collapse in America. Ernst & Young says it is blameless in these cases and was scrupulous with its audits. The firm's 2,000 American partners, meanwhile, seem oblivious to their plight. They spent the weekend at Disney World in Florida, celebrating the first anniversary of the merger with Arthur Young.

AN EMBARRASSING correction to the South East Electricity Board's Christmas quiz has just been circulated to thousands of households. They had missed a "z" out of Electricity.

Champions Capel

THE rough and tumble of the dealing room found its way to the football pitch this weekend, when James Capel and Barclays de Zoete Wedd challenged each other to a game of soccer – in New York. And while Capel beat their old rivals 4-3, BZW more than made up for it in other ways. "They definitely won in terms of injuries inflicted," says Ray "Gazza" Kelly, director of UK sales at Capel's New York office, who captained the event and is now nursing a swollen ankle for his efforts. Other Capel casualties include Nick Howard and Gary Webb, who barely made it to the firm's offices in the Chrysler building to catch the first trades. The Capel team, resplendent in their red and white colours, hope to tackle other British firms in New York – as soon as they recover from their wounds. Kelly was reluctant to name his aggressors. Jim Clegg had



INSTEAD of joining the queue to buy electricity shares, Frank might be better off spending the money on insulating his castle, according to Friends of the Earth. The charity claims spending on cavity wall and loft insulation can offer an annual return of £30 for every £100 they cost – the same yield claimed by Kleinwort Benson for electricity shares in their first year on the market. That return will

Ray of light in Westland black hole

TEMPUS

WESTLAND is in the darkest depths of the infamous black hole for helicopter orders that prompted the departure from cabinet of Michael Heseltine and changed the course of British politics.

But while helicopter orders remain scarce, Westland has not been short of ideas about squeezing better returns from its workload.

A handsome set of full-year figures showed profits up 27 per cent at £26.2 million and earnings per share up 16 per cent at 12.4p.

But perhaps the most pleasing news for shareholders was a higher final dividend of 2.5p per share, the first increase since the group returned to the dividend list in 1987. It lifts total payout to 3.75p against 3.5p last time, a 7 per cent rise.

The dividend boost is a fair reflection of rising profits this year and last, but it might also help shore up Westland's shares which have slipped from a high of 152p earlier this year to 105p, up 3p on the day.

GKN sits passively on potentially vital 22 per cent stake and takeover talk will return when the group emerges from its black hole.

When that will be is not clear, though by next year the Ministry of Defence is expected to place an order for 50 Royal Navy EH101s and it is thought to want 38. A Saudi order for 88 Black Hawks is part of the Al Yamamah project. Work could begin soon, but the date is clouded by events in the Gulf.

Westland delivered 14 helicopters in the year to end-September compared with 18

last time, but with several hundred aircraft in service its customer support and spares business held trading profit from the division at £19.2 million, close to the previous year's £19.7 million.

Aerospace activities performed strongly with profits up 66 per cent to £3.8 million while the third division of Westland's business technologies raised profits from £8 million to £9.6 million.

Higher margins and lower gearing provide evidence that Westland is a much tighter ship than in the past but a rising tax charge will keep many diluted earnings flat next year at around 10.4p.

The shares rose 10p to 358p last time, but with several hundred aircraft in service its customer support and spares business held trading profit from the division at £19.2 million, close to the previous year's £19.7 million.

The shares rose 10p to 358p because the 30 per cent dividend rise to 17p per share was even better than expected after the interim payment. Dividends have virtually doubled in two years, but are still covered 1.9 times. M&G explains this as following its own advice to companies. But it was really a catching up exercise after caution in the wake of the 1987 crash sent cover to three times.

Over ten years, earnings and dividends have both grown at a compound rate of 29 per cent. That explains the shares' rating of 11.2 times earnings with a 6.3 per cent yield, which is also justified by the value of the life business.

The unit trust market is still slack, despite the expected end of season boost to PEP applications. But, to do all well this year, M&G needs the public to share "inspirations" renewed fondness for equities. M&G has given a lead by switching most of its cash back into its own unit trust. Long-term investors should not find the shares expensive.

That was helped by the high quality life profits, up a quarter to £6.5 million, and by keeping £20 million of its corporate cash on deposit, helping investment income rise 29 per cent to £7.1

million. But unit trust and other fund management profits were still up 14 per cent, helped by growth in Peps and slightly higher charges.

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Analysis will be surprised if profits this year exceed £16.5 million, suggesting an 18 per cent fall in earnings to 9.3p a share. On the bright side, the shares, up 3p to 64p, offer a yield of 12 per cent on a flat dividend.

These are hard times for the engineering sector and Dobson Park Industries is no exception. Despite hefty restructuring

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

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Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld	Bid	Offer	chng	Yld				
ASSET UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				CAPE JAMES MANAGEMENT				GT UNIT MANAGERS				IMLAND UNIT TRUSTS LTD				HOLDING LTD				HOLDING LTD				HOLDING LTD				HOLDING LTD				HOLDING LTD			
90 Holmebank Rd, Greenwich E18 8AL				PO Box 5007 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HJ Tel: 071-528 0560-1 071-528 0563				Security	210.0	220.7	-0.6	1.00	Hold Ind	84.87	101.4	-0.6	1.25	Hold Ind	84.87	101.4	-0.6	1.25	Hold Ind	84.87	101.4	-0.6	1.25	For East Agg	72.22	77.57	-3.2	1.50			
Stepford	1104	117.10	-0.5	9.82	106.1	116.4	-2.3	9.48	Euro Acc	85.97	703.1	-0.6	2.27	Euro Acc	40.86	42.48	-0.13	0.54	Wtde Bond	61.04	61.04	-0.09	0.09	European	61.04	61.04	-0.09	0.09	European	61.04	61.04	-0.09	0.09		
High Inv Spain	120.5	124.10	-0.5	7.45	103.3	130.0	-2.7	8.50	UK G/F Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	UK G/F Inv	80.05	84.87	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Wtde Bond	169.0	201.30	-0.5	7.45	95.11	104.7	-1.6	9.50	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Asian Growth	150.0	155.0	-0.5	7.20	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Asian Pacific	143.0	160.4	-1.6	8.20	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Agg Inv	85.00	95.00	-0.5	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Capita Inv	75.00	75.00	-0.0	0.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Country/Energy	74.50	75.73	-0.2	8.24	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Euro Corp	102.0	112.50	-0.2	7.27	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
General	148.0	160.2	-0.2	7.12	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Japan	80.32	85.00	-0.5	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
UK Govt	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Do Agg	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
US Corp Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Investment	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Master Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Am Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Am Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Ed Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Ed Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Ed Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Ed Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	85.17	-0.0	0.00	Agg Inv	80.51	85.17	-0.6	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00	Agg Inv	50.05	54.87	-0.4	1.00		
Ed Inv	87.40	88.74	-0.1	8.00	104.3	110.4	-2.1	8.00	Agg Inv	85.17	8																								

UNLISTED SECURITIES

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BUSINESS LETTERS

Power sell-off message vague

From Mr David Howard

Sir, In making a decision about investing money in the 12 regional electricity companies private investors have received a mini-prospectus from the Electricity Supply Information Office.

It offers a wealth of words and many large numbers and is, as such documents go, user friendly. The general message for the short term is the same from all 12 companies: the status quo will be maintained within the prevailing economic situation.

If we look at the long term though, a less coherent picture emerges from reading the sections headed Prospects. In each of the 12 companies the directors present their "beliefs" and "expectations" but nowhere do we see leadership statements such as "The direc-

tors will..." The word "strategy" is not easily found in the prospectus, either. In fact, only two companies use it, referring to company and to marketing and sales strategies. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that it is these same two companies which announce that they will seek real earnings growth due to productivity and efficiency improvements.

The directors of one company state that some real profit growth should arise from "any efficiency improvements achieved", as if their attainment is in the lap of the gods.

Another company states that its objectives include a will to "promote enterprise and quality of service throughout its businesses". This is the nearest any of the 12 come to recognising the importance of their (unmentioned) customers in laying down their plans for the future.

Whether Frank has a bolt loose or not we may never discover, but what we do learn from this mini-prospectus is that the top directors of the 12 companies do not find it easy to present a clear vision of quality management to their customers or describe how they will add value to the assets placed in their new charge by those very shareholding customers the prospectus is attempting to attract.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWARD,
Hill House,
20 Old Hill,
Chiswick, Kent.

Challenge for British industry

From Mr I. Weston Smith

Sir, In his letter of November 20, Sir James Spooner speaks of the possibility that what is now the UK market may, by the end of the century, disappear from the order books of British industry. Perhaps we should remind ourselves that, come '92, the whole of the EC will be as much "home" market as Scotland is today?

The company to which Sir James refers I know well, since I am his predecessor.

My predecessors had the foresight and energy to establish, by shrewd investment and marketing skills, their products throughout the entire European continent - a single example being a factory in St Petersburg a decade before the first world war.

What faces British industry today is the task of finding the money and the determination for the research, development and marketing effort necessary to develop this immense and challenging market.

Such opportunities need great enterprise, as our 19th century forebears knew so well.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WESTON SMITH,
The Old Rectory,
Hinton Waldrist,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Donald R. Painter

Sir, Have the last ten years merely brought us round in full circle of high interest rates, an over-valued pound and rising unemployment, asks Sir James Spooner (Business Letters, November 20).

I suggest the encompassing circle has far-reaching effects

Myth about rates

From Mr Rodney Atkinson

Sir, In his summary of the economic problems facing John Major, Anatole Kaletsky (The Times, November 28) anticipates lower interest rates to "pull the economy out of recession". It is a widespread myth that lower average industrial growth constitutes a "recession" which can be alleviated if government lowers interest rates.

This is not true, any more than the decline in turnover of one company or one industry represents a recession on account of which monetary policy should be relaxed. After many decades of industrial

upon those trapped within its

During the period 1983-85, when the same leading British group under Sir James' chairmanship, was divesting itself of peripheral interests, the subsidiary I had controlled for over seven years was one of the casualties of this core business concentration. The group has since grown and prospered, mainly by investment overseas, and is a credit to its leadership. However, the fate of my ex-colleagues and tens of thousands caught in the resultant employment trap of that period requires thoughtful understanding.

Managers of companies in the 1980s, whose fate was similar to mine, know only too well that they are regarded as "over the hill".

During the past five years, I have enjoyed manufacturing and export sales development with two smaller British companies which, despite the superhuman effort of managers and direct labour force alike, were forced to "rationalise" their activities, resulting in further demise of British manufacturing and export effort.

Clearly investment in such companies would be speculative but, knowing the British public's love of a good gamble, it may well be that this type of scheme could be attractive to higher-rate taxpayers.

Yours faithfully,

PHILLIP SOBER,
104 Longwood Drive, SW1.

R&D 'gamble' could pay off

From Mr Phillip Sober

Sir, I was interested to note that in the recent OECD annual review research and development expenditure by business has hardly grown in real terms in Britain since 1985, whereas elsewhere in the European Community such expenditure has picked up.

The Times published a letter of mine (Letters, February 25, 1987) suggesting that if the Chancellor allowed BES companies to invest in research and development projects in fields approved by government, this could be a useful way of finding private money to fund these projects.

Clearly investment in such companies would be speculative but, knowing the British public's love of a good gamble, it may well be that this type of scheme could be attractive to higher-rate taxpayers.

Yours faithfully,

PHILLIP SOBER,
104 Longwood Drive, SW1.

Missing index link

From Mr Lloyd Walters

Sir, The stock market story that Kenneth Fleet's figures in The Times (November 24) tell me is rather different to the one he appears to have read. The bottom line surely is that, adjusted for inflation, the FT Actuaries all-share index has gained an average of 3.8 per cent per annum during Margaret Thatcher's 11½ years in Downing Street. If his response to this is gratitude, then mine in turn is amusement.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD R. PAINTER,
Forest Lea, Orchard End,
LLOYD WALTERS,
68 Gloucester Street, SW1.

and capital cost subsidy, much poor investment in superficial products is now being shown, with high nominal interest rates, to have been of little value - although good companies continue to flourish. When so much poor business activity is stopped by artificially priced capital then that does not represent a recession. Government should not lower real post-tax interest rates in Britain. They are already below levels experienced by our EC competitors, encouraging a continued poor quality of investment and a further decline relative to other countries.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON,
Managing Director,
Public Issue Conferences,
5 Harbour Exchange Square,
E14.

It may be difficult for the government to admit its past

economic inadequacies, and it may be painful for so many engaged in futile business activity based on those inadequacies and who will now lose their jobs. But it would be far worse to continue the illusion of wealth creation by making cheap capital even cheaper. Nothing could be worse for a capitalist economy.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON,
Managing Director,
Public Issue Conferences,
5 Harbour Exchange Square,
E14.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (\$)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (\$)
The World	507.0	1.4	-32.8	1.1	-24.1	0.5	-16.8
(tree)	1064	1.3	-32.9	1.0	-24.1	0.5	-16.8
EAFFE	973.9	1.4	-37.5	1.2	-31.9	0.6	-25.6
(tree)	1000.0	1.4	-37.5	1.1	-32.1	0.5	-25.5
Europe	610.4	1.5	-19.8	1.3	-16.9	0.6	-4.2
(tree)	1322.4	1.4	-18.2	1.3	-16.8	0.6	-3.5
Nth America	412.8	1.2	-23.3	0.4	-8.3	0.4	-8.4
Nordic	1123.1	2.4	-27.8	2.0	-22.4	1.5	-19.0
(tree)	185.2	1.4	-21.2	1.0	-16.8	0.5	-6.0
Pacific	198.9	1.4	-47.4	1.3	-41.1	0.5	-37.9
Far East	3010.3	1.4	-48.0	1.2	-41.9	0.5	-37.9
Australia	237.7	1.2	-31.6	0.3	-16.6	0.3	-16.5
Austria	1346.7	3.3	-9.2	2.5	-3.4	2.4	-8.3
Belgium	702.4	0.3	-28.7	0.0	-25.3	0.5	-14.8
Canada	409.2	0.8	-31.8	0.0	-16.1	0.0	-18.6
Denmark	1109.7	0.1	-15.7	0.3	-11.5	0.7	-6.6
Finland	68.7	1.5	-40.4	1.2	-36.5	0.7	-26.8
(tree)	93.8	2.9	-37.2	2.3	-32.8	1.0	-27.2
France	613.9	2.4	-24.1	2.3	-20.8	1.5	-8.4
Germany	719.8	1.8	-21.6	1.5	-18.5	1.0	-8.4
Hong Kong	1946.1	2.6	-12.3	1.8	-4.7	1.8	-4.7
Japan	255.2	3.8	-50.8	3.2	-29.2	2.7	-21.0
Netherlands	816.5	1.3	-46.8	1.2	-40.0	0.5	-39.0
New Zealand	789.7	0.6	-21.8	0.3	-16.8	0.3	-6.6
Norway	57.5	1.1	-42.2	0.8	-31.1	0.3	-23.4
(tree)	1186.5	-0.6	-11.5	-1.0	-5.5	-1.5	-5.7
Poland	207.0	-1.0	-11.4	-1.4	-5.4	-1.9	-5.8
Sing/Malay	1395.2	2.1	-30.1	1.2	-24.4	1.2	-18.5
Spain	170.4	2.0	-28.0	1.5	-24.7	1.2	-21.3
Sweden	1156.6	4.8	-34.1	4.4	-28.2	3.9	-21.3
(tree)	169.9	4.3	-29.8	3.9	-23.5	3.4	-16.2
Switzerland	715.3	2.1	-21.8	2.2	-21.7	1.2	-6.5
(tree)	106.1	2.2	-21.9	2.3	-21.8	1.2	-6.7
UK	845.7	0.8	-10.4	0.8	-10.4	0.2	-6.9
USA	374.4	1.3	-22.5	0.4	-17.0	0.5	-7.5

WORLD MARKET INDICES

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Value	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (\$)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (\$)	Yearly change (\$)
FTSE	420	0.7	32.8	1.7	25.2	0.1	25.2
FTSE 100	420	0.7	32.8	1.7	25.2	0.1	25.2
FTSE 250	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 350	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 500	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 600	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 700	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 800	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 900	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 1000	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 1250	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 1500	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 1800	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 2000	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 2500	220	0.7	22.8	1.7	22.8	0.3	22.8
FTSE 3000	220						

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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of the merits of working within private practice and industry, calling upon the first hand experience of our Consultants. Naturally, CVs are only forwarded to clients at our candidates' direction and applications are not made to clients on a speculative basis. If you would like to discuss the opportunities set out below or the many other positions registered with us, contact Simon Lipson, Michael Silver or June Mesrie, all Solicitors, or Lucy Boyd, a Barrister.

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Aftermath of arson: all journalists should beware of championing the cause of alleged firebugs

Court of Appeal

Immigrant's innocent false statement

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Akhtar
Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice McCowan
(Judgment November 28)

False representations innocently employed in ignorance of the true situation to obtain entry clearance into the United Kingdom entitled an immigration officer to refuse leave to enter under paragraph 13 of the *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules 1983* (HC 169).

The Court of Appeal so held in discussing an appeal by the applicant, Ibadzeen Akhtar, from the refusal by Mr Justice Nolan on July 6, 1990 to grant leave to move for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's rejection of her appeal from an adjudicator's refusal of leave to enter.

The applicant applied for and was granted in Islamabad entry clearance to join her husband, also her sponsor, whom she had

married the previous year. She arrived at Heathrow on June 11, 1989 and was refused leave to enter on the ground that in ignorance of the true situation she had falsely represented to the visa officer that her marriage to her sponsor was the first and only marriage for both of them. In fact her sponsor had been married before but had not at the time of the application disclosed that to the applicant.

Paragraph 13 of the 1983 Rules provided that a passenger who held an entry clearance certificate which was duly issued to him and was still current was not to be granted leave to enter unless the immigration officer was satisfied that "(a) whether or not to the holder's knowledge false representations were made or material facts were not disclosed, either in writing or orally, for the purpose of obtaining the clearance".

Mr Michael Shrimpton for the applicant; the tribunal did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that Mr Shrimpton's case was that for paragraph 13(a) to apply, the Secretary of State for the Home Department had to establish fraud by the applicant.

But nowhere did the word "fraud" appear in paragraph 13.

Indeed there could not possibly be any question of the need to establish fraud because of the words "whether or not to the holder's knowledge".

What had to be shown was that the representation was false in the sense of not being accurate and that such representation had been made for the purpose of obtaining the clearance. It clearly was not.

Mr Shrimpton had advanced an alternative argument that the words "false representations" in paragraph 13 should be read as "false material representations". He relied on an unreported decision of the tribunal in the case of *Azad* given on October 15, 1984.

But the tribunal had not been

justified in putting the matter in the way that it had in that case. Further, Mr Shrimpton had properly drawn the court's attention to a later and contrary decision of the tribunal in the case of *Sussex* on September 19, 1986.

There was no justification for any gloss being put on the plain words of paragraph 13: it was stating that false representations had to have been employed for the purpose of obtaining clearance.

It was possible that there might be a problem on the relevant *form* that could be said to be incomplete and for the purpose of obtaining clearance. It could not possibly be said that in the instant case the representation had not been employed for the purpose of obtaining clearance.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Ms Ranjita Arora from the order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr J H Galbraith and Mr W Morris (*The Times* July 13, 1989; [1989] ICR 719) reversing an industrial tribunal's decision to award her £1,000 exemplary damages in addition to its compensation award.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Goolam Meeran for the

applicant; Mr William Birtles for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Farquharson (Judgment November 27)

Exemplary damages could be awarded by an industrial tribunal against a local authority found to have unlawfully discriminated on grounds of sex and race against an applicant for a post at a college for which the authority had responsibility.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Ms Ranjita Arora from the order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr J H Galbraith and Mr W Morris (*The Times* July 13, 1989; [1989] ICR 719) reversing an industrial tribunal's decision to award her £1,000 exemplary damages in addition to its compensation award.

The only issue was whether the industrial tribunal was entitled on the facts of the case to make an award of exemplary damages in addition to an award of damages by way of compensation.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had held that awards of

exemplary damages in relation to acts of local government were confined to the exercise of public powers and where a local authority was exercising its powers to select individuals for employment it was not exercising a power within the public function.

On behalf of the applicant it had been submitted:

1 That, as was conceded by the council, local authorities were liable to pay exemplary damages in appropriate cases in the same way as were organs of central government.

2 That there was no authority for the novel distinction drawn by the Employment Appeal Tribunal between public functions of local authorities and "private" functions.

3 That a local authority was a corporation created by statute and its functions were limited to

the exercise of powers and the performance of duties expressly or impliedly created by legislation.

4 That the functions carried out by a local authority were public functions and there was no room for the concept that in relation to certain of its functions the authority was acting in a private capacity.

5 That it was not to the point that judicial review might not be available in relation to a contract of employment between a local authority and an employee. The award of exemplary damages in tort was based on a different principle.

6 Although there might be cases where actions taken by employees of a local authority could not be regarded as an abuse of public power, in the present case it was to be remembered that the committee was composed of the principal and a vice-principal of the college as well as a councillor as a representative of the governing body of the college.

On behalf of the council it was submitted that the Employment Appeal Tribunal was fully justified in drawing a distinction between the private actions of the council and functions which could properly be regarded as public functions.

The real question, Mr Birtles submitted, was whether at the material time the authority was exercising a function of a governmental character. Exemplary damages only lay where the person or body was exercising authority or giving directions. It was to be remembered that Lord Reid had spoken in *Rookes v Barnard* ([1964] AC 1129, 1223) of "the arbitrary and outrageous use of executive power".

His Lordship saw the force of the submission put forward on behalf of the council. But in his judgment the distinction drawn by the Employment Appeal Tribunal was unsound.

Exemplary damages were anomalous and it was difficult to find any satisfactory basis for allowing such damages against a small local authority and refusing them against a powerful

international company.

But the anomaly existed and governmental bodies including local authorities were treated as being in a special category.

His Lordship did not find it possible to keep the distinction that while the applicant was being interviewed the committee was carrying out some private function of the council.

In *Rookes v Barnard* (at p1226), Lord Devlin had stated the first category of exemplary damages to be in respect of "oppressive, arbitrary or unconstitutional action by servants of the government". Lord Reid in *Broome v Cassell* ([1972] AC 1027, 1088) had said that extended to local government.

It was not necessary to examine in the present case the exact ambit of Lord Devlin's first category. There might be some cases where a junior officer of a council was carrying out some duty which could not properly be regarded as the exercise of a public function at all.

But in the present case senior employees of the council and a councillor were considering a candidate for a senior position in a college for which the council had responsibility and in respect of which it exercised functions under the education Act.

Cases where exemplary damages were justified would be rare, probably very rare. Before awarding such damages the court or tribunal would need to consider whether the conduct which was criticised fell within one of the specific categories explained in *Rookes v Barnard* and *Broome v Cassell*.

It would also have to consider whether the award of compensatory damages, including aggravated damages, was not by itself sufficient to punish the defendant for what had been done.

Lord Justice Russell agreed and Lord Justice Farquharson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Cuff Roberts North Kirk, Liverpool; Mr A. R. Sykes, Bradford.

Law Report December 4 1990

Exemplary damages against councils

Arora v Bradford Metropolitan Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Farquharson (Judgment November 27)

Exemplary damages could be awarded by an industrial tribunal against a local authority found to have unlawfully discriminated on grounds of sex and race against an applicant for a post at a college for which the authority had responsibility.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Ms Ranjita Arora from the order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr J H Galbraith and Mr W Morris (*The Times* July 13, 1989; [1989] ICR 719) reversing an industrial tribunal's decision to award her £1,000 exemplary damages in addition to its compensation award.

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4 That the functions carried out by a local authority were public functions and there was no room for the concept that in relation to certain of its functions the authority was acting in a private capacity.

5 That it was not to the point that judicial review might not be available in relation to a contract of employment between a local authority and an employee. The award of exemplary damages in tort was based on a different principle.

6 Although there might be cases where actions taken by employees of a local authority could not be regarded as an abuse of public power, in the present case it was to be remembered that the committee was composed of the principal and a vice-principal of the college as well as a councillor as a representative of the governing body of the college.

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Perils of playing with fire

The media should avoid launching crusades, Sir Michael Ogden, QC, says

LEGAL BRIEF

publicity, except in the rare cases in which the evidence is so strong that the police will prosecute and obtain a conviction. I know that this is happening.

I suspect that those in the media who have run the campaigns have not appreciated the true position. Although in proceedings brought by an insured person against the insurers' reason for repudiation are never given because comment would involve alleging arson and giving the reasons, thereby exposing them to a libel action.

The result is bad publicity for the insurers. In cases of which I know and which have attracted the media's story, insurers have always stood firm and the alleged arsonist has never recovered any money, usually abandoning the litigation once his lawyers have seen the formidable evidence in the insurers' possession.

However, the adverse publicity affects cases involving other insurers, as well as those who have been the victims of the media campaign. Claims managers are instructed by their board or chief executive that, from a commercial point of view, it is better to pay up in cases that could be successfully fought rather than attract adverse

publicity. I suspect that editors who start these campaigns are not so gullible as to think that the insured person's story is necessarily true, but programmes I have watched and listened to and articles I have read in cases in which I have been concerned in which I have been concerned have usually been

Short arm of the law

The Efficiency Commission, the joint body of the legal profession and the Lord Chancellor's department, recently published "good practice" guides to improve efficiency in the crown courts. These are welcome, but they do not go far enough, nor will they make any real savings.

If Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is serious in his intentions to control the cost of legal aid and the courts themselves, he needs to adopt a more radical approach.

There are at least two ways in which substantial savings can be made. First, unnecessary court hearings can be eliminated. Second, court hearings that are unnecessarily long can be shortened.

In the bulk of the cases before the crown court, at least in number, if not in length, the pleas are guilty, if straightforward crimes are being dealt with, such as the burglary of homes. Sentencing in all criminal cases is based on the concept of a tariff for the type of offence involved, together with adjustments according to the circumstances of the offence and the previous record of the defendant.

This system is clearly understood by lawyers, and in the vast majority of cases the sentence can be predicted with a high degree of accuracy.

Equally, the defendant often

Some crime cases could be dealt with by letter to save costs and time, says Patrick Stevens in a plea for efficiency

has a good idea of the penalty that will be imposed on him, and, provided he does not get more than the perceived tariff for that offence, he will not want to appeal. There is no reason in cases such as these for anybody to attend court, except for the defendant to receive his predetermined sentence.

The procedure could be simplified in the following way. After a case had been committed for trial in the crown court, a judge would study the papers in the case and consider a written plea in mitigation from the defendant's solicitors. The judge would then give a formal written notification to the defence of the sentence if there was a plea of guilty.

If the defendant was prepared to accept this, only he would have to attend court for the imposition of the sentence.

If the defendant did not accept it, there would be a hearing in the normal way and the judge in the case would not be bound in any way by the sentence previously offered.

To make the system work effectively, the sentence offered would have to include a further slight discount on the standard one-third reduction

cases. Most crown court trials take far longer than necessary. Trials are more speedily and efficiently dealt with in the magistrates' courts than in the crown courts because most magistrates' court work is dealt with by solicitors and nearly all crown court work is conducted by barristers.

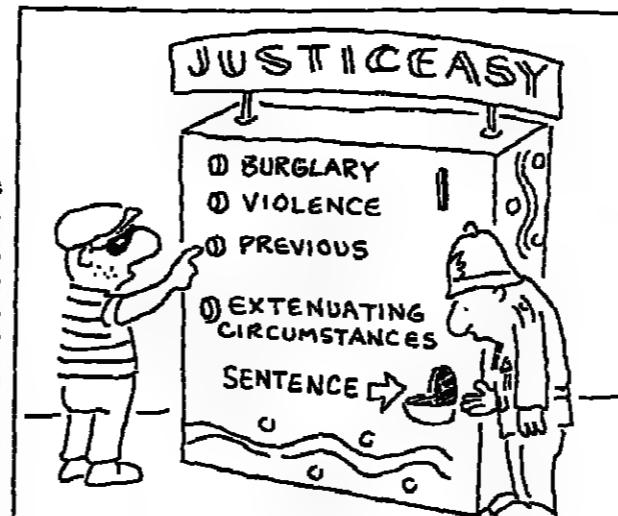
The difference in tempo between a busy magistrates' court and a crown court is striking and, in practical terms, this means that barristers in the crown court operate at little more than half the speed of solicitors.

The reason for this is that solicitor advocates have other work to do apart from advocacy and are eager to conclude cases as quickly as possible, whereas barristers are under no such pressure.

Magistrates' court clerks are also intolerant of long-winded advocates and tend to manoeuvre the list so that the quicker advocates are heard first and the slower ones sit and wait, and lose money in the process. No similar sanction exists in the crown court, where judges all too often allow proceedings to drag on at a snail's pace.

The remedy is simple. If the bulk of crown court work was conducted by solicitors, the hearings would be speeded up and justice would be done not only more quickly but also more efficiently and cheaply.

Despite the opposition of the Bar and the judiciary, the



INNS AND OUTS

Empty seat at lunch

The prime minister's hasty removal was a blow for the Law Society. Officials at the society's headquarters had been beavering away for 18 months to persuade Margaret Thatcher to lunch with their president and the date had just been fixed - for yesterday. John Major could not keep the date but officials are optimistic about channels of communication with the new prime minister. Judy Joy, the society's parliamentary officer, spent many hours with Mr Major during the bill for the social security reforms and knows him well. The verdict at Chancery Lane is that he is a "good egg". One official said: "Even Ken Livingstone used to praise him for doing more for housing, when on Lambeth council, than ever expected from the Tories."

Crown tops

THE Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) emerged well from last week's cabinet office report on the progress of women in the civil service. The CPS, the largest employer of lawyers in Britain, accounts for more than 14 per cent of the higher-grade women in the civil service. Women in the CPS make up 38 per cent of all 1,117 employees from higher executive officer to grade five. At grade seven, for instance, they account for 43 per cent of all employees, although this falls to 14 per cent at the higher grade six. These figures compare well with the rest of the civil service, where the promotion of women is to be the subject of a campaign by the First Division Association, the union representing higher-grade government staff.

Centres in need

RESEARCH by Lynda Hiscock and Geoffrey Cole, of the Central London polytechnic, into the use of volunteer lawyers in law centres and the future for *pro bono* legal services has shown that only a tiny proportion of lawyers undertake such work (1 per cent of the 52,399 solicitors holding practising certificates and the 6,000 barristers practising in 1989). The re-

SEARCH

SECRET MOVES

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THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN LAW FIRMS INCREASES RAPIDLY, THE RISK OF UNAUTHORISED PEOPLE ACCESSING FILES COULD GIVE FIRMS SERIOUS TROUBLE. ANY INFORMATION FALLING INTO THE WRONG HANDS COULD BE A BREACH OF THE DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY.

THE NATIONAL COMPUTING CENTRE IN MANCHESTER, WHICH IS CO-ORDINATING THE TRADE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, WANTS TO ENSURE THAT SMALLER LAW FIRMS ARE MADE AWARE OF THE RISKS.

SCRIVENOR

Pity the poor fraudsman

THERE is not a substantial civil liberties lobby for those accused of committing fraud. Society strives to be scrupulously fair to murderers and rapists, protecting their rights in a variety of ways. By contrast, for the fraudster, all these safeguards have been partly or wholly swept away, and nobody has raised so much as a whisper of protest.

If the lessons of the American experience with the securities and exchange commission, which has been in existence since the Thirties, are anything to go by, nobody will raise an effective protest.

As a jurisprudential concept, the philosophy behind the creation of the legislative structure to deal with fraud is of doubtful validity. Because fraud is so difficult to investigate and prosecute, so the argument goes, it is permissible, desirable and even essential to restrict the civil rights of those accused of it.

The mere difficulty of achieving a legal end, however, should not be a justification for bending the rules. Nobody can doubt that fraud cases

are difficult to investigate and prosecute. Equally, nobody can argue with the finding of Lord Roskill - in his frauds committee report of 1986, which led directly to the setting-up of the Serious Fraud Office - that the authorities' impotence was a matter of serious and legitimate public concern. However, the arguments deployed to justify removing rights from somebody facing the prospect of professional ruin must be extremely cogent.

Two of the more intuitive of these arguments should be summarily dismissed. The first is that a fraudsman is intelligent and therefore needs the protection of fewer rights. Our civil rights did not evolve simply to protect the most vulnerable citizen. The philosophy has a more fundamental basis than that, namely, that a man is innocent until proved guilty.

The second is that because a fraudsman has plenty of time and leisure to plan and execute his fraud, and can obfuscate his tracks, the authorities need to be made even with him by having enhanced powers. The notion, however, that a fraudsman leaves a more difficult trail is nonsense. He leaves a paper trail, and often a money trail, a mile long. It may be complicated, but at least it is there for examination, and this must make a fraud case much more amenable to investigation than, say, a child murder with its scanty clues.

The problems of the Serious Fraud Office's victim start at the outset of a fraud investigation. Apart from the barest details, comprising the name of the company and/or persons under investigation, he is not told precisely, or even generally, what is being investigated. Yet he will be ordered,

not by a judge or magistrate, but by the person investigating him, to produce documents and answer questions.

If he fails to co-operate, he will be prosecuted for that refusal and probably jailed. In addition, the Serious Fraud Office will probably be only one of a number of official or quasi-official people investigating him.

There may have been a Department of Trade inspection, during which he will have been forced to answer questions, and his answers will be used against him in any criminal proceedings. The inspector's report will amount to a guilty verdict - against him, probably depriving him of his livelihood. Even if the inspector's verdict does not go against him, the Serious Fraud Office can have a second bite at the cherry. The agony of this process of successive investigation

is unjustifiably prolonged. Things do not improve in court. The judicial function of the criminal proceedings is usurped by the Serious Fraud Office director, who has an unfettered and unchallengeable discretion to transfer any fraud case of significant seriousness and complexity to the crown court and to lodge an indictment.

The protection granted to a defendant to set aside this transfer has been interpreted by the courts as a paper tiger, giving them no discretion to stop a case in which there is the vaguest possibility of the jury reaching a guilty verdict.

It is not surprising that these new powers have terrified those who encounter them. Many will rejoice at this, but there are risks that the over-zealous exercise of the powers will produce injustices and that, as a result, they will lose the respect and forfeit the co-operation of those City folk whose support they need.

DAVID KIRK

• The author is the partner in charge of the fraud and regulation unit of City law firm Stephenson Harwood.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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دعا من الصل

The concept of voluntary work sprang from charitable and leisure beginnings but recent years have seen a considerable growth in the numbers and variety of people willing to do unpaid work. Many volunteers are aware that there are advantages all round, for themselves as well as for the people or organisation they support.

In the changeable employment market, voluntary experience makes a good impression on potential employers. "Helping" can also involve helping oneself to confidence through volunteering a few hours a week or a few months full-time.

"The trouble with me is that I still do not know exactly what I want to end up doing," says Paul McGilchrist, who works in media resources at a London comprehensive school. Louise Robertson and Paul were employed as publicity officers on short-term contracts, and took on voluntary work to try out new directions. Paul is now a volunteer tutor in adult education. Louise's hours with a hospital radio were enjoyable and, she believes, added to her credibility. She went on to join a production team for a television programme.

Advertisements for voluntary help with fund-raising, publicity, clerical work, research and practical jobs frequently include sentiments such as "cheerfulness and flexibility more important than skills" and "support and training provided".

There are outdoor projects, residential schemes and telephone helplines. The intangible assets gained from working with people, such as listening, noticing, and responding to what needs to be done help to make volunteers convincing at job interviews.

Voluntary work continues to have a high public profile. Last April, the Prince's Trust and the Commission on Citizenship organised a conference, "Young

Help yourself, helping others

Voluntary work can help younger people decide which career to choose, says Bernadine Coverley

Volunteers in the Community" and tomorrow's International Volunteer Day will pay tribute to volunteers by publicising local activities.

If the value to society is obvious, the rights and protection of unpaid workers have to be considered as well. The Volunteer Centre has produced a charter to encourage organisations to cover practical details such as arrangements for insurance and health and safety.

Community Services Volunteers (CSV) is one of the longest-running organisations providing full-time experience in the caring professions. This national scheme, founded in 1962, places 2,000 volunteers a year from its local offices around the country.

As new volunteers appear, CSV expands. The policy is not to refuse any offer of help from anyone aged between 16 and 35, whether ex-offenders, graduates or school-leavers wondering what to do. The only preconditions are a willingness to leave home for a placement lasting from four months to a year, in a different and often contrasting area, and to live on £18.50 per week plus housing and meals.

Lesley O'Brien, aged 17, who is working in a women's refuge, was too young to join the Metropolitan police. At the CSV interview she



One pace forward: Howard Flynn and Stefanie Hodges are fighting crime as community volunteers, helping police in south London

asked about placements that would be an asset in her choice of future employment.

"I have gone along with women when they needed help from the police. It was very revealing and I understand much more about what the police do. I am a better listener too." She will move on to spend the last months of her year as a volunteer working with homeless people.

After failing one A-level, Shabir Azziz, from Sheffield, thought he had no chance of going to college, so he became a volunteer to give himself time to think. He was

placed at a Birmingham community centre, where he works with elderly people and on an innovative bilingual project with Punjabi children. "The best thing is getting feedback from people. I did not expect to enjoy it so much either," she says. He is now applying, with CSV advice, to polytechnics to study social administration.

Not every volunteer has such clear ideas about careers. Hazel Bakin, aged 18, lives near Northampton. She says: "There is nothing but shoe factories and shops and I had loads of jobs, the

longest for two months." She wanted to get away and the local careers officer put her in touch with CSV. In London Hazel helps a disabled woman to live independently.

Although CSV is mainly concerned with caring for people, it does have a "green" project for 25 people in Wales, Cymru Conservation Challenge, an imaginative, one-year programme of working with people and the environment in Wales and in Portugal.

Those who prefer outdoor volunteering can join the British

Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). This organisation, supported by the Countryside Commission, gets more than 60,000 volunteers a year working on conservation in town and country. The variety is endless, including scrub-cutting, coppicing and tree-planting in woodland, restoring ponds, controlling water level and maintaining aquatic plants and dependent creatures in wetlands, and repairing dry-stone walls, fencing and hedge-laying in fields.

The majority of volunteers get involved out of interest but for

some it is an invaluable opportunity. Those who are willing to volunteer full-time can become voluntary field officers and will receive comprehensive training.

Jane Bevan, from BTCV's head office, says: "Many long-term volunteers are graduates who want to get experience before going into a career in conservation or environmental science. Some centres are vying for volunteers. North Yorkshire may seem more obviously attractive than an inner city, but making the city green can be just as satisfying."

A volunteer field officer is treated as a member of staff and training is allocated according to time of service, covering such practical skills as the use of computers and time management. Ability to get on with people is tested in "leading volunteers" workshops. Field officers must be able to run a friendly, co-operative group of diverse volunteers from lawyers to miners.

BTCV can help with accommodation and expenses, but the rules governing state benefits need to be checked with the social security and employment departments. Some voluntary organisations provide similar programmes on an employment training basis. Involvement in any voluntary activity puts people in touch with a network of contacts and gives a feel for the grassroots work, a good basis for informed career decisions.

For further information: Volunteer Centre UK, 29 Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted, Herts; Natural Break, conservation working holidays programme, local BTCV; Volunteer Field Officer Information, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, 36 St Martin's Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0LH; Community Service Volunteers, 237 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NQ. The Voluntary Agencies Directory is available at libraries or from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), 26 Bedford Square, London WC1 3HU.

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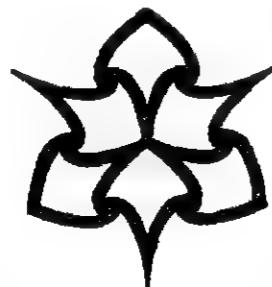
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- RACING 39
- RUGBY UNION 40
- FOOTBALL 41

SPORT

A past master reflecting on the modern game

Barcelona

IF BARCELONA'S no-better-than-average team leads the Spanish side by four points, it does not say too much for Real Madrid, in third place, and the rest. It would have taken more than John Toshack to recapture Real's illusory past; Ramon Mendoza, Real's president, is probably chasing shadows in searching for a new manager.

On Sunday, I watched Barcelona, admittedly without four important players, make heavy work of defeating Real Mallorca 2-1. Afterwards, I talked with Johan Cruyff, now in his third season as "Mister", as the Spanish call their coaches. I wanted to know his view of the latest Fifa newsletter editorial, which studiously avoids reality: negative football, Sepp Blatter, the general secretary, suggests, is entirely the responsibility of coaches.

Well, partially, perhaps, but what about Fifa's failure to oblige referees to implement existing laws in favour of creative teams?

Cruyff, who was the mainspring

DAVID MILLER

of three of the most positive and innovative of teams in the early 70s, Ajax, Barcelona and the Netherlands, pulls no punches.

It goes way beyond coaches, he says. There are three reasons, in his opinion, for the decline in appeal: the comparatively low technical level of skill; the blinding of players, from the youth stage, with tactics; and the tolerance by referees of negative and ungentlemanly conduct.

"Ball control and passing is nowadays so often limited that possession of the ball can sometimes be a disadvantage," Cruyff said. "So much of the game is therefore a fight with muscle and fitness instead of with skill. We have to concentrate on teaching young players to play with the ball, to stop them playing competitively and to forget about tactics. Coaches don't use wingers simply because there aren't any."

We have full backs playing outside left. It's nonsense."

Cruyff's view of the responsibility of referees is severe, and at the same time novel. In the same way that goalkeepers may not take more than four steps, he believes referees should arbitrarily penalise teams which repeatedly pass back to the total football of Ajax and the Netherlands, who regularly attacked with eight or nine men.

One practical step he advocates is that grass pitches should always be slightly watered before kick off, as the Nou Camp pitch is. Plastic balls, unlike leather, will not run on dry turf," he says. "That is one reason why the World Cup in Italy was so static and without pace."

He is optimistic that Barcelona can hold on to their present lead for one of the club's rare league titles; but he is worried by the run of injuries. One or two is not serious, but four? On Sunday, his team was without Koeman, the sweeper — out for three months — Sergei at centre back and Ferer at left back, and Laudrup in attack.

Cruyff is not against widening of goals by, say, a metre, as suggested by Fifa, because the all-round competence of goalkeepers is one of the few factors that has



Cruyff: a man of strong opinions

Eusebio and Goikochea scored a goal each a quarter-of-an-hour into each half; Claudio reduced the lead 18 minutes from time and caused a panic, during which Serna, Barcelona's left back, was sent off.

The difference between now

and two years ago is that we are winning even on bad days, like today," Cruyff said. "We're physically much stronger, and so much of the game nowadays is

about strength." It has taken Goikochea two years to mature into a threatening midfield player since he was signed from Osasuna.

Cruyff would fancy, in the long term, the possibility of being national manager of the Netherlands — for which he was nearly recalled at the last minute, rather than Leo Beenhakker, for the World Cup — but for the moment he prefers the day-to-day action of working with a club. "I like the daily training because I still enjoy playing, even casually," he says. "As national coach, all you do is spend the time watching matches to look at players."

He finds Spanish players difficult to discipline, tactically. "They forget themselves, they revert to their individual mentality," he says. "Italy have collective discipline ... going backwards. Germany have it, running a lot, but are often boring. England have their own disciplined style. The fun of the game is its differences."

An all too obvious difference between the Spanish and the English game, is the extent to which the ball is played along the ground. This may not make the Spanish world cup team any more successful than Graham Taylor's, though it is not without significance that Liverpool's passing game coincides with the longest successful sequence by any club in the world.

What may be stated unarguably is that you cannot score without the ball and that a passing game on the ground substantially increases the possibility of retaining possession compared with the ball played in the air.

It was evident on Sunday the extent to which Barcelona, and to a lesser degree Majorca, kept the ball low. No more than one pass in 20 was hit above waist high. This did not serve to make it an especially exciting game, but there is less of the frenzy and the permanent element of chance that exists in the English game.

Overseas review, page 38

Carling to answer allegations that he took payment

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL Carling, the England captain, will meet officials of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) today to answer accusations that he had contravened the amateur regulations of the sport. He said yesterday: "I was paid money after a function. It was not a rugby club and the money went to a charity with which I have become particularly involved."

It was reported on Sunday that the RFU had received a letter, not for the first time, claiming that Carling had accepted money in contravention of the amateur regulations as they existed before the International Rugby Football Board's recent revision.

Carling said yesterday that money he had received for attending a non-rugby function had been passed to a charity and that he would be able to prove it.

"I have spoken to Dudley Wood [the RFU secretary] and I know exactly what it's about," Carling said. "I am amazed it's turned up about 18 months later. The money that came to me was given to a charity and there is a letter to prove it which I will show to the RFU officials."

"I will also be writing to the newspaper concerned to tell them exactly what the score is. If someone had asked me before this came up, there

would have been no story. "I just feel rather sad that people feel they have to have a go all the time. It wears you down after a while. The impression that Will Carling is in rugby to make money is totally wrong. If that was the case I would have accepted one of the offers from rugby league."

Some people have the idea I have been leading the charge to change the whole game. That started long before I came on the scene. I want to raise the profile of the game, not Will Carling, and do something for the sport as a whole."

Carling, aged 24 and with 20 caps (13 as captain) to his credit, is going through a phase notorious in Australia as the "tail poppy syndrome", meaning he is liable to be more discreet in his public pronouncements, and in respect of the most recent accusation, he would do well to note Andy Ripley's experience of nearly ten years ago.

Many rugby personalities are sent cheques in respect of services they have performed, or time they have given up, which they invariably pass on, as Carling did, to a charity.

Ripley, now president of Rosslyn Park, then playing some of his best rugby at No. 8, took part in a televised

Superstars series and, for coming third in a world event, won £6,000; if he had come first, the prize would have been £30,000 and Ripley admits he would probably have professionalised himself and accepted it.

His youth (he was still 22 when invited to captain England against Australia in 1988) tends to be overlooked and the fact that he has been able to form his own company, helped by his rugby fame, has attracted sideways glances from those unwilling or unable to understand that the youth trust "in my day", Ripley said. "The whole amateur situation was far more clear cut. You either did it and risked being found out either by the union or the Inland Revenue, or you didn't."

The problem for Will and people like him is that they don't know where they stand under the present regulations. I feel immensely sorry for him in his position. I just wish people would leave him alone to get on with what he does best, and that's playing rugby."

"Nine months ago my whole life was in ruins, not just my career," Mason said.

Champion gains new lease of life

Slimline Mason bounces back

By BRYAN STILES

GARY Mason, the poly-poly British heavyweight boxing champion, felt unloved and almost unwanted as he left the ring after winning his last two bouts — his public had started to turn against him. Worse still, it was discovered he had a detached retina and it looked as if his career was over.

Yesterday the new, slimline Mason bounced around a gym declaring he was at a new beginning. His eye is fine, he has shed almost three stones in seven weeks at a training camp in Florida and he cannot wait to lay some leather on Lennox Lewis, Britain's latest heavyweight hopeful, who was recently crowned European champion, and who, according to Mickey Duff, Mason's manager, is trying to put off the confrontation.

Weighing in after a strenuous workout in a gym that squat in a down-at-heel back street behind King's Cross station, London, Mason beamed as the scales registered 16st 11½lb — his lightest for five years. When he went into the training camp he was 19st 8lb, the result of the anxiety and bad eating habits brought on by his eye problem. He is on a new diet that rules out red meat.

The unbeaten champion is not promising he will be under 17st, as Duff is insisting, when he steps into the ring for his warm-up contest against James Prichard, of the United States, at the Albert Hall on Wednesday next week, but he is promising a sharper, faster boxer that his public should warm to. Gone will be the champion whose "mental attitude" was not right, and whose "heart was not in it."

"Nine months ago my whole life was in ruins, not just my career," Mason said.



An eye to the future: Mason in training for his comeback bout with James Prichard

Time for a bow for those in the wings

By STUART JONES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Taylor will today reward the members of the England squad who have been waiting in the wings. Most of the places in the B party, which is to play in Algeria next Tuesday, are expected to be filled by those who have acted as reserves or replacements.

The international offers England's manager a convenient opportunity to examine the merits of players he might soon consider worthy of promotion. Apart from one controversial exception, all of his three senior line-ups have so far been based on the same designs as his predecessor, Bobby Robson.

Taylor could not reasonably start his international managerial career by omitting individuals who were responsible for reaching the semi-final of the World Cup. Even on the one occasion when he felt compelled to bring in an outsider, he turned to one of his old boys from Aston Villa, Gordon Cowans.

Had he been recalled for any purpose other than to reinforce the midfield in the Republic of Ireland, Taylor could justifiably have been criticised for a short-sighted policy. The future of Cowans, who had made only two spasmodic appearances for England in the previous seven years, is inevitably limited. He is 32.

Taylor has already indicated that he will not use the occasion in Algeria as a benefit match for similarly aged players who have not received international recognition. The emphasis will instead be on providing experience and continuing the development of comparative youngsters who are already on the edge of contention.

Tony Daley, also of Villa, and Ian Wright, of Crystal Palace, are examples of those who have been chosen for the senior party. Both can expect to be invited to Algeria.

Earl Barrett, the central defender who made such a notable contribution to Oldham Athletic's success last season, has cause for optimism. David Burrows, a versatile member of Liverpool's rearguard, David Batty, the pugnacious Leeds United midfield player, and Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton's talented forward, could also be included.

United States plans, page 41

Kerly confirms return to international arena

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SEAN Kerly left no doubt about his intention to return to international hockey when he confirmed yesterday that he was available for England and Great Britain in the new year.

"I asked to be left out of all international matches after the World Cup at Lahore until

I could sort myself out with a job. Now that I have done that, I am available," he said.

His last international appearance was on February 22 at Lahore when, in the play-off for fifth place in the World Cup, England defeated the Soviet Union 1-0.

During his self-ordered absence, Kerly, who had scored eight goals for the Olympic

gold medal-winning team in 1988, missed the BMW tournament in Amsterdam in June and the more recent Champions Trophy in Melbourne, as well as the Four Nations classic at Luton in October.

Bernie Cotton, the England and Great Britain team manager, said yesterday: "Kerly is committed to earning a place in the England team for the

European indoor championships at Birmingham in February, the European [outdoor] Cup in Paris in June and, in the Great Britain team for the Champions Trophy in September."

Cotton expressed concern yesterday over the delay by Germany in announcing details for this event. "I shall be trying to get into it wherever it is held," Kerly added.

Kerly is playing for Europe in the Azlan Shah Inter-Continent tournament in Kuala Lumpur from December 10 to 15, which means he will miss Sounthgate's postponed Nationwide Anglia Cup third round match on December 15 against East Grinstead. The European team is managed by Roger Self.

Spectators are being led a merry rain dance

ALAN LEE on Australian tinkering with the rules of limited-overs cricket

IT has often been said that simplicity is the essential attraction of one-day cricket. The crowds are drawn because intricate knowledge is not necessary — everyone knows that each team bats for the same number of overs on the same day and that the winner is the one with the most runs at the end.

In Australia, where the limited-overs game is increasingly predominant, the spectator is now being asked to contend with some complex diversions from this elementary script, new rules which may be well reasoned but could still endanger the appeal of instant cricket to those without the time or inclination to graduate as experts.

Anyone who watched the first of this winter's World Series Cup games, in Sydney last Thursday, will be aware of the latest meddling with the basics, though whether they understand it is entirely

the runs scored by the team batting first from the equivalent number of highest scoring overs, plus one."

This is as clear as mud on first inspection, but evidently means that, for instance, if team A scores 250 in 50 overs and team B is then restricted to 20 overs, their target score will be the sum of the most productive 20 overs enjoyed by team A, which might well be daunting 150 or so.

What is achieved by this rule is a correction, if not a complete reversal, of the traditional imbalance towards the side batting second in a rain-affected match, and for the captains in the competition it demands a re-think of the acknowledged tendency to win the toss and invite the opposition to bat if there is rain around.

So far as the spectator is concerned, however, it achieves hazy possibilities within an event which, like most off-the-peg entertainment,

succeeds because what you see is what you get.

There was confusion, too, during England's opening match, when John Wright, the New Zealand opener, fended a short ball from Devon Malcolm off his chin and was caught at second slip. Wright was half way to the pavilion before being alerted to the fact that the square-leg umpire had signalled no.

ball, not for anything scandalous such as throwing, nor even for having too few fielders inside the circle.

The no-ball was called because, in one-day cricket here, a ball that passes, or would pass, above shoulder height is illegitimate. In England, the regulation is different, relating to head-height, and is also interpreted more loosely.

Effectively, this rules out the bouncer and render Malcolm, the quickest bowler in any of the three competing teams, less obviously effective. It was just another worry for England yesterday as they arrived in Canberra to violent hailstorms and headed for Capital Hill to meet a prime minister who was still finding time to indulge his passion for cricket, despite the pressure of weightier, global issues.

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World Series Cup

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England

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